

صلى الله عليه وسلم

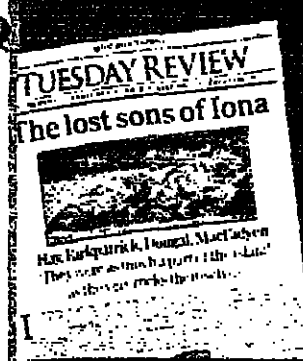


# THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,795

TUESDAY 15 DECEMBER 1998

(1R50p) 45p



## Iona grieves for its young men

FRONT



## The growing pains of Piers Morgan

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IN THE TUESDAY REVIEW: HEALTH

# Blair hardens stance on Europe

TONY BLAIR widened the divide between Labour and the Tories on Europe yesterday, when he vowed that he would not be deflected from pursuing a positive, pro-EU policy.

By nailing his colours firmly to the Europhile mast, Mr Blair also launched a fightback aimed at winning over readers of Britain's Eurosceptic newspapers to what he sees as the benefits of closer EU integration. The Prime Minister told the Commons that Britain would get a better deal by being "positive and constructive" in

the EU. But William Hague warned that Mr Blair's decision to "go with the flow" would suck Britain into an "United States of Europe."

The hardening of the Government's pro-EU stance came as an opinion poll suggested that slightly more people in the UK approve of the single currency than disapprove.

A pan-European survey, conducted for the French news agency, Agence France-Presse,

which questioned just under 1,000 people in Britain, found that 48 per cent of them had a positive view of the euro and 43 per cent a negative one.

The finding will encourage Mr Blair, who has concluded that repeated threats to veto EU proposals weaken Britain's influence - even if they play well to the domestic audience.

He thinks Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, should have shown more restraint recently when other EU countries called for a common tax policy. "The veto should be a weapon of last

resort, not first resort," one minister said last night.

Mr Blair decided to appeal over the heads of sceptical newspapers to their readers, after private Labour polls suggested people thought much of the recent coverage of tax harmonisation was based on "dogma" rather than facts.

His decision to counter attack from a pro-EU platform widens the gap between Labour and the Tories and means that Europe is certain to be a key battleground at the next General Election.

"We are very happy to have lots of clear blue water between us and the Tories on this issue," said one Downing Street source yesterday.

Mr Blair and Mr Hague clashed angrily in the Commons when the Prime Minister reported back on last week-end's summit of EU leaders in Austria. "The Government will not be swayed from its positive and constructive European policy," Mr Blair said. "I have no doubt that it is the right course for Britain's future."

Saying the Opposition's pol-

icy was driven by "headbangers in the Shadow Cabinet", he told Mr Hague: "Under your leadership the lunatics have taken over the asylum."

The Tory leader accused Mr Blair of saying one thing to the British people and another to the country's EU partners. He said the Prime Minister was more concerned with attacking the British media than preventing the development of a European superstate, which was now "in prospect".

Mr Blair claimed that Britain had helped to shape the

debate at the Vienna summit on economic, employment and other issues in a way which was fully consistent with national interests. The Tories warned that the meeting had moved towards a common tax policy by approving a study of company taxation and said Mr Blair had performed a U-turn by agreeing to job creation targets.

Mr Blair told MPs the £2bn-a-year rebate on Britain's EU contributions was "fully justified and will remain".

However, Joschka Fischer, Germany's Foreign Minister,

increased the pressure on Britain to surrender part of its refund, by warning that the plan to allow Eastern European countries to join the EU could be "stopped in its tracks" if member states failed to reach an agreement on EU funding by next March.

In a tough message outlining Germany's priorities for its spell in the EU's rotating presidency, which starts next month, Mr Fischer also called for closer economic and financial coordination.

Tory 'lunatics', page 8

## Clinton's visit seals destiny of Palestine

BY PATRICK COCKBURN  
in Gaza

PRESIDENT BILL Clinton yesterday gave the Palestinian people the gift they had been waiting for when he effectively recognised their claim to independence by addressing their parliament in Gaza.

In a day filled with emotion and a sense of history, the Palestinians in return voted to revoke the controversial clauses in the Palestinian charter that call for the destruction of Israel.

Mr Clinton said the Palestinian people were free to "define their own destiny on their own land".

Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader and head of state designate, called on the meeting of Palestinian officials and members of the Palestinian parliament to nullify the offending clauses. Israel has demanded they be revoked before proceeding with its limited withdrawal from the West Bank.

The vote may prove decisive in restarting the Wye peace agreement. David Bar-Ilan, a senior adviser to Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, said: "The issue, as far as we are concerned, is now off the table." Israel is due to withdraw from another 5 per cent of the West Bank at the end of the week.

President Clinton's visit to Gaza is also seen by Mr Arafat as marking an end to the long

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era of confrontation between the United States and the Palestinians. He said: "I reaffirm to you what I told you in the White House, that I will continue the peace process away from violence and confrontation."

In the first speech by an American president to the combined Palestinian leadership, and the first visit to the Occupied Territories, Mr Clinton praised the Palestinians for voting to revoke the anti-Israel clauses. "You did a good thing today by raising your hands," he said. "You know why? It has nothing to do with the government of Israel. You touched the people of Israel."

President Clinton's emphasis on the need to conciliate the Israeli public stems from his doubts about the willingness of the Israeli Prime Minister to carry out the letter of the Wye Agreement on withdrawal from the Occupied Territories. To stay in office, Mr Netanyahu needs the support of the far right which does not want a pull-back.



Yasser Arafat holding Bill Clinton's hand against his heart during the American President's visit to Gaza yesterday. Gary Hershorn/Reuters

Mr Clinton's arrival by helicopter in Gaza took place under tight security with checkpoints every few hundred yards on all the city's roads. Patrol boats guarded the foreshore and few of the one million Palestinians in Gaza - 60 per cent of them refugees - caught so much as a glimpse of the US President.

The city was draped in American Stars and Stripes, which for the last 30 years have only been displayed in Gaza to be burnt in protest at US support for Israel. Hillary Clinton, who, unlike her husband has declared her support for a Palestinian state, was mobbed by children when she visited Shati refugee camp in central Gaza.

President Clinton praised Mr Arafat for not walking away from the negotiations with Israel when he had many reasons to do so. He said he understood Palestinian grievances over Jewish settlements, land confiscations and house demolitions. And in a marked change of tone from that used by previous US presidents, he referred to the Palestinian "history of dispossession and dispersal".

During the presidential visit, a halt has been put to the recent wave of demonstrations and riots over the continued imprisonment of Palestinians by Israel. Four Palestinians have been killed in violence on

the West Bank as Mr Arafat comes under pressure from his own people not to let his pursuit of an understanding with the US lead to Palestinians remaining in jail for carrying out his orders.

The Palestinian charter, written in 1964, has been a matter of dispute between Israel and the Palestinians since peace talks started. Mr Arafat insists the disputed clauses were revoked by the Palestine National Council two years ago with the agreement of the US and the previous Israeli government. Mr Netanyahu said it had not been properly nullified and insisted on yesterday's show of hands.

Yesterday's vote should open the way for a three-way meeting between President Clinton, Mr Arafat and Mr Netanyahu to discuss differences over the implementation of the Wye Agreement, which has been frozen by Israel. Nathan Sharansky, a member Mr Netanyahu's inner cabinet, said last night that he expected the meeting to take place.

Mr Netanyahu welcomed the revocation of the charter, but claimed it was the result of his pressure. He added that there were other conditions which the Palestinians would have to meet but did not say if this week's Israeli withdrawal would take place.

## Young are lazy, fat and drink too much

BRITAIN'S YOUTH is lazy, glutinous and addicted to booze and fags, according to the newest and most comprehensive survey of young people's health, published by the Government yesterday.

The rot sets in from the age of five as children of both sexes spend increasing amounts of time in front of the television, eating the wrong foods and getting fat. By their early teens they are experimenting with cigarettes and alcohol, spending more hours slouched in darkened rooms and storing up

future health problems. By their early twenties, over 40 per cent are regular smokers and more than 20 per cent are overweight.

The survey of almost 20,000 people aged from two to 24 is the most extensive undertaken of the age group.

It shows that the "health gap" between rich and poor begins in infancy and widens through childhood and adolescence into early adulthood.

Professor Liam Donaldson,

the Chief Medical Officer, said the findings should ring alarm bells among the young. "That is the stage at which the foundations for a healthy life are laid," he said.

Professor Donaldson denied that the survey demonstrated the failure of government efforts over the past decade to persuade young people to eat their greens, walk to school instead of going by car and decline drink and drugs. "I wouldn't see it as evidence of a failure of public health programmes but of the need to re-

focus them," he said. "It is a risk-taking age group. We cannot abolish all the behaviour, even should we want to. The important thing is to ensure that it is not carried through into adult life."

The findings demonstrated the need to act early to prevent young people developing the bad habits that could turn them into chronic invalids later in life.

Too much effort and too many resources were expended on treating the consequences of unhealthy lifestyles rather than changing the

lifestyles themselves. "We need to be upstream preventing people falling in, than going downstream and pulling them out," Professor Donaldson said.

A White Paper expected early in the new year will set out the Government's plans for promoting public health and will suggest ways of reducing health inequalities which begin in the earliest years. The new survey provides a benchmark against which future progress will be measured, Professor Donaldson said.

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Brian Harris was highly commended in the Georges Bendrihem Prize for his picture (left) of Martin McGuinness embracing Cyril Ramaphosa, as was John Voos for his of Emma Nicholson (right) at a Lib Dem conference

## Winning images put frame on history

A STUDY of Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, framed in a doorway at his Belfast office, has won an international prize for David Rose, a photographer on *The Independent*.

The Georges Bendrihem Prize, dedicated to the memory of a French photographer who died covering President Jacques Chirac's visit to Tunisia in 1995, is presented for the year's best picture depicting a European political figure. Rose was presented with the award and a cheque for 25,000 francs (£2,700) yesterday by the President at the Elysee Palace in Paris.

BY DAVID LISTER  
Art News Editor

Two other *Independent* photographers, John Voos and Brian Harris, were highly commended.

Presenting the award, President Chirac said that in Rose's black-and-white picture one could feel pressing on the shoulders of the leader of Sinn Féin "all the crushing weight of a future difficult to construct". Rose is the first photographer from outside France to win the prize since it was set up in 1996.

Andy Blackmore, picture editor of *The Independent*, said: "David Rose's portrait shows some of the timeless qualities seen in all classic photojournalism: the instant bite of its geometric composition with the lingering after-taste of its depth. David has employed what can be a clichéd tool of composition to outstanding effect by framing Gerry Adams in the door frame."

"He goes on to notice the light behind the subject, which gives the image an ethereal feeling. The highlight on the door handle to the left, and the shape of the light switch to the right add an extra dynamic to the image, to produce a photograph that is both graphic and subtle at the same time."

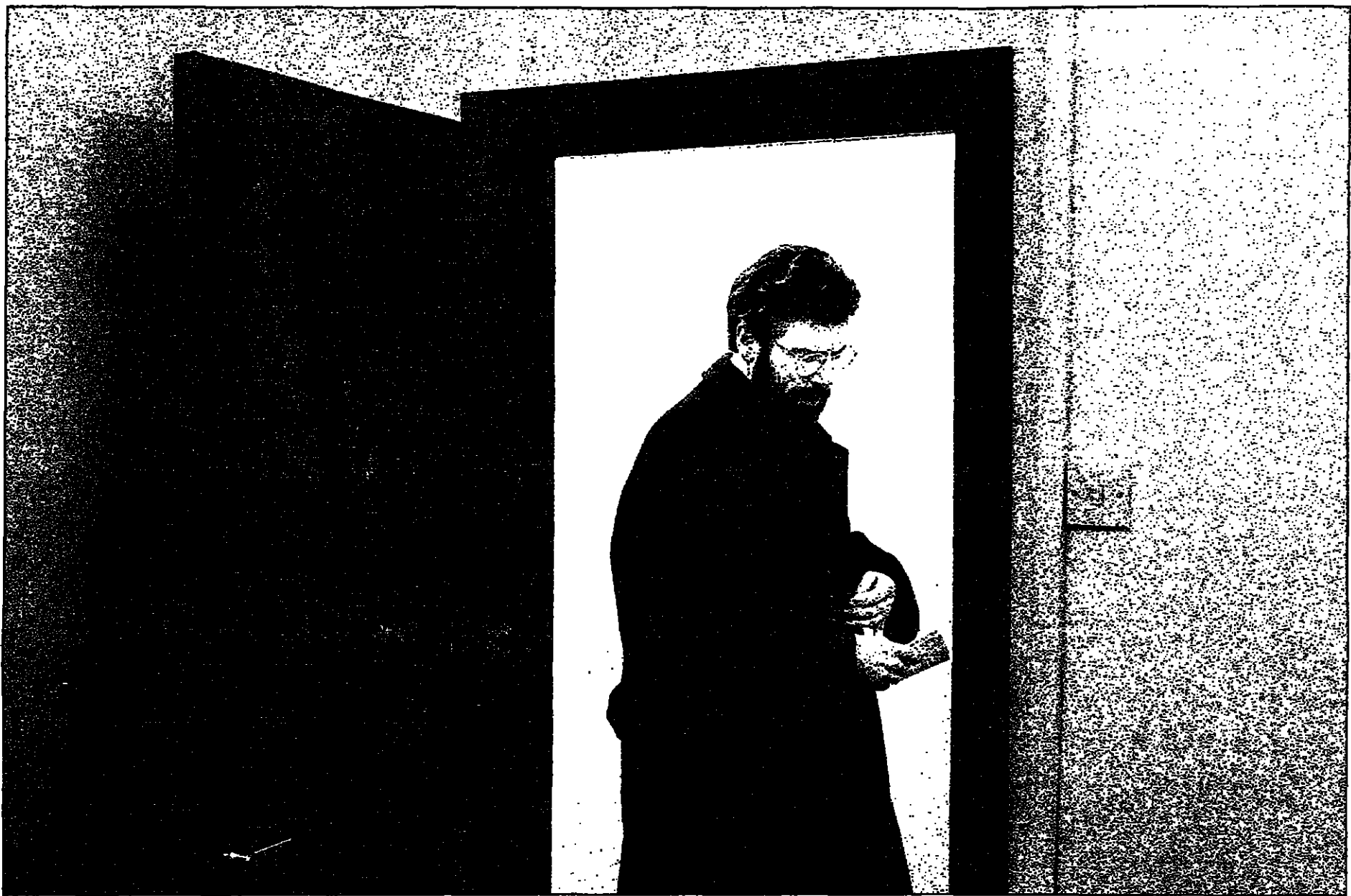
Voos's entry was a picture of Emma Nicholson having her eyes tested in Brighton on the second day of the Liberal Democrat conference in September.

Harris snapped a comradely embrace between Martin McGuinness of Sinn Féin and Cyril Ramaphosa, former secretary-general of the African National Congress, during a Sinn Féin rally in Belfast.

Congratulating Rose on becoming "lauréat du premier prix Georges Bendrihem 1998" President Chirac presented him with the trophy, a silver plate marked in the centre by a medal symbolising photography. The prize was decided by a jury made up of international photo-journalists.

*Independent* photographers have consistently won awards since the paper's launch in 1986 and *The Independent* is Newspaper of the Year for Photography. The award continues *The Independent's* tradition of promoting striking photography, which has been recognised in awards including the Nikon Press Awards and UK Guild of Picture Editors Awards.

The Georges Bendrihem Prize was created by friends and colleagues of the photographer.



Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, in his office in Belfast, the image which won David Rose of 'The Independent' first place in the Georges Bendrihem prize

## The trouble with 'overbearing' Sir Bernard, by his neighbours

DETAILS EMERGED last night of an extraordinary feud between Baroness Thatcher's former press secretary, Sir Bernard Ingham, and his neighbours. Angry words have escalated to the point where the police were brought in and Sir Bernard now faces possible criminal damage charges.

A sauna, two wooden garages and a brightly coloured children's playhouse belonging to Barry Cripps, a builder, have fuelled Sir Bernard's growing discontent with his neighbours at "Nuttercracker Gables" in Purley, Surrey.

The feud, over parking rights and property boundaries, has simmered for years. On Sunday it grew more heated when Sir Bernard allegedly kicked - and dented - Mr Cripps' shiny Mercedes because it was parked in

a way that blocked his drive.

Yesterday, the Crippses told how they - instead of the Fleet Street editors of the Thatcher years - were the victims of Sir Bernard's allegedly "overbearing attitude".

The row is believed to have started when Sir Bernard, 66, saw a car belonging to Mr and Mrs Cripps parked near the garage at the back of his detached bungalow. Yesterday Mr Cripps released a statement claiming Sir Bernard kicked and dented the door of his Mercedes during the confrontation. Sir Bernard denies this.

Mervyn Toogood, a neighbour who read out a statement on behalf of Mr and Mrs Cripps, said: "They have already had to endure Sir Bernard's overbearing attitude for several years and do not wish to engage



Ingham: Facing possible criminal damage charges

in a public dispute with him.

"His behaviour over this period has now culminated in the incident occurring on Sunday December 13 in which he kicked and dented the driver's door of their Mercedes.

"They have an undisputed right of way over the vehicular access behind Sir Bernard's property which enables them to drive to their rear garage. It was whilst attempting to drive up this shared access way that Sir Bernard kicked the car."

Sir Bernard was keeping tight-lipped today and his wife told reporters he was away.

Mr Toogood, a marketing consultant who lives opposite Sir Bernard, said there had been a history of disputes between the two neighbours and that yesterday's incident was "the straw that broke the camel's back".

The incident is thought to be the culmination of disagreements between the neighbours including a boundary dispute. Sir Bernard, who has been

bailed to return to Croydon police station at a future date, is also reported to have disliked two garages built by Mr Cripps, a wooden sauna in his garden and a playhouse for his son.

Mr and Mrs Cripps, who have lived in their detached home for about 10 years, are said to have very little contact with Sir Bernard.

Sir Bernard said after the incident: "All that happened was that I have an extremely troublesome neighbour. He drove over my land to try to get his car into a rear garage."

"He knows he shouldn't do so. When I remonstrated with him, he blocked my way into my garage and then alleged that I damaged his door - although I could see no damage."

Leading article, Review, page 3



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## Boat tragedy 'ripped heart from Iona'

THE SEARCH for three young men missing, presumed drowned, off the isle of Iona in Scotland resumes today after more than 100 volunteers and emergency rescue workers failed to find any trace of them.

Last night, as one or two locals spoke of how the heart had been "ripped out" of the island, most accepted there is no chance of the men having survived. The talk turned to when the bodies might wash up.

A hospital consultant in

Oban, Argyll, said that Gordon Grant, 23, who swam to safety only to discover the body of one of his friends, had survived because of his high level of fitness.

His mother, Helen Grant, said: "We are a famous island but not a famous people and we would give anything not to have this attention."

"I am the lucky one - my son is the one who survived - but you have to understand I felt

like a mother to these other boys, as well. It is a great pain we all feel. These boys were the future for this island and we have lost that."

Mrs Grant said the young men had run about together as children. "They were great friends and good people and this has ripped the heart out of our already fragile community."

Yesterday's search for the three men, Logie McFadyen, 24, Alisdair Dougal, 19, and David Kirkpatrick, 23, was assisted by

two helicopters, fishing boats, rescue vessels and dozens of islanders. Steve Monks, HM Coastguard sector manager, accepted there was little chance of finding them alive: "It would be wrong to give anyone false hope by talking about finding survivors. This is a fishing community. It understands the situation."

Mr Grant has told the coastguard that the 14ft dinghy capsized after being hit by a large wave, stoked by south-westerly winds. As he and his friends fought to bail out their boat, one of the gunwales dipped under the water. None of the men - including Robert Hay, whose body was found on Monday - had been wearing life-jackets.

"If they had been, we may well have had them with us today," said a coastguard spokesman.

The five men had been travelling back from a Christmas dance on Mull.

"Lost sons", Review Front



# Serial rapist is linked to ten attacks

A SERIAL sex attacker is believed to have struck at least 10 times in the past 16 months, police said yesterday. The man, who is considered extremely dangerous, has raped several of his victims. The attacks were in London, Essex and Brighton.

Nearly 100 officers from three forces covering the areas are conducting a joint investigation, codenamed Operation Monarch.

Commander Paddy Tomkins, of Scotland Yard, said the man could strike again. The attacks include the sexual assault of two girls of 14 and 15 in a wood and the rape of a 15-year-old.

The joint inquiry began in November in Essex after three attacks in Southend and Westcliff were linked. Subsequent investigations showed a rape in north-west London and an earlier attack in Brighton were by the same man.

Mr Tomkins said: "This man is a prolific attacker. We are obviously concerned that he may strike again. It also entirely possible that this man is responsible for other attacks that may not have been reported to police."

Detective Chief Superintendent Lee Weavers, of Essex Police, added: "Detailed analysis and investigation has revealed

BY JASON BENNETTO  
Crime Correspondent

strong links between these 10 offences in terms of the suspect's speech, his behaviour patterns and the duration and method of attack."

He is a described as white, possibly tanned, aged 20 to 30, of medium build and 5ft 8in to 5ft 10in tall. He has short brown hair, sometimes described as wavy on top and shorter at the sides. He speaks with a southern accent, and sometimes wears a cream or white knitted shirt with black stripes, similar in style to a rugby shirt.

The attacks were:

- A serious sexual assault on a 22-year-old at 3pm at her home in north-west London on 29 October this year;
- Sexual assault on a woman aged 21 in a street in east London at 10.40pm on 28 October;
- Rape of a 26-year-old woman in north-west London at 4am on 13 September;
- An assault on a 16-year-old in Southend, Essex, on 12 September at 9.45pm. The attack was interrupted by the victim's boyfriend;
- A serious sexual assault on a 22-year-old woman, also on 12 September, in Westcliff, Essex, at about 11pm;

■ The rape of a 15-year-old girl in Eaton Road, Southend, at 3am on 31 August;

■ The rape of an 18-year-old in Brighton at about midnight on 29 August;

■ A serious sexual assault on a 17-year-old girl on waste ground in north-west London at about midnight on 23 May;

■ Sexual assault on a woman in an empty garage in north London at 10.15pm on 19 May;

■ A sexual assault on two schoolgirls, aged 14 and 15, in woodland at Rayleigh, Essex, at 5pm on 12 August 1997.

Anyone with information should call 0800 389 2873.

In an unrelated development, police are to ask a court to impose a curfew on a freed rapist who returned to live near the scene of his crimes.

In what is believed to be the first case of its kind, police will seek an order under new laws against Michael Gordon, 35, from Manchester, dubbed the Bedsit Beast after being jailed for 12 years in 1990 for raping two students at knifepoint.

A stipendiary magistrate in Manchester will next week hear submissions by Greater Manchester Police that Gordon, freed under licence earlier this year, should be subjected to a 10pm to 7am curfew.

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Diane Blood, with Rudolph a toy reindeer given to her by relatives, talking yesterday in Sheffield. Doug Marke

## Diane Blood tells of joy at birth

BY GLENDA COOPER  
Social Affairs Correspondent

DIANE BLOOD, who became pregnant by her dead husband's sperm, spoke for the first time yesterday of the "wonderful feeling" of becoming a mother. Mrs Blood, 32, gave birth to Liam by Caesarean section at a Sheffield hospital on Friday after a four-year fight to be artificially inseminated.

"It's a wonderful feeling to know that he's here," she said. "He's in a special care baby unit at the moment and I'm obviously still very concerned about him but it was lovely to hold him in my arms." Liam weighed 5lb 13oz and arrived a month early. Stephen Blood, 30, who died of meningitis would have been "very proud to be a father".

His wife persuaded doctors to remove sperm from his body while he was unconscious. Because it was taken without his written consent, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority blocked Mrs Blood's use of it. The Court of Appeal decided that under European law she did have the right to use the sperm and a Belgian clinic carried out the insemination.

The law prevents Stephen being named on the birth certificate but Mrs Blood had no plans to challenge it. Asked if she was likely to have more children she said: "It's a theoretical possibility."

## Legal reform plan 'will add to acrimony of divorce'

GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS to overhaul the legal system will make divorce more acrimonious and threaten the independence of the judiciary, lawyers' groups warned yesterday. The Access to Justice Bill was attacked by the Law Society for its emphasis on US-style "no-win, no-fee" cases as it received its second reading in the House of Lords.

BY PAUL WAUGH  
Political Correspondent

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, outlined the details of the Bill yesterday with a pledge to bear down on the £700m-a-year legal aid bill "in the interests of the public rather than lawyers".

The Bill aims to introduce the biggest changes to the legal

aid system for more than 50 years by contracting out work to a small number of specialist firms. It will also allow solicitors to represent clients in the higher courts and replace criminal legal aid with a Criminal Defence Service comprising quality-approved lawyers.

But in an attempt to cut legal aid costs, the Bill will introduce so-called "conditional

fees" to cover property disputes that arise from a matrimonial break-up.

The president of the Law Society, Michael Matthews, said the "US-style approach" would make divorce much more confrontational by creating a "winner takes all outcome". Mr Matthews said the "bizarre" proposal flew in the face of other government policies to

improve mediation on divorce and persuade the parties to negotiate differences amicably. "Conditional-fee agreements need a clear winner and a clear loser and that's not something you want when a couple are going through divorce," he said.

Lord Irvine said conditional fees would open up the courts to those who could not afford to

contemplate the cost of losing a case. He said the Bill would introduce "quicker, simpler and cheaper" court procedures while sweeping away restrictive practices in the legal professions.

The Lord Chancellor told the House of Lords that the Bill was a "realistic and fair" way of ensuring that the public got value for money at the same

time as increased access to the courts.

The Bill will end the current system whereby any lawyer can take a legal aid case. The number of firms offering a legal aid service will be cut from 11,000 to about 3,000 nationwide, a move critics have claimed will create "legal aid deserts".

The Bill also came under attack from the Tories for its

controversial proposal to end the powers of the four senior "designated" judges to veto any rule change affecting the profession or advocacy rights.

Sir Nicholas Lyell, the shadow Attorney General, said that moves to give the Lord Chancellor the right of veto would give him unprecedented power that would threaten the independence of the judiciary.

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## European ministers ban four antibiotics from animal feed

EUROPEAN AGRICULTURE ministers have banned four antibiotic drugs from animal feed after warnings that overuse by farmers is causing resistance to antibiotics in humans who eat pork and chicken.

Bowing to Swedish and Danish research indicating that the routine use of these drugs poses long-term health concerns, a majority of governments, including Britain, brushed aside lobbying by the pharmaceutical industry to back the ban.

Nick Brown, the Minister for Agriculture, said his support was based on concern for public safety. "The new Labour Government is determined to put the protection of the con-

sumer at the forefront of decision making in this area. That means that on the basis of scientific evidence and the precautionary principle, the British Government supports the ban," Mr Brown said.

Other ministers said they had learned the lessons of BSE, E. coli and other serious food scares. "This is a triumph for the consumer," said Ireland's Minister for Agriculture and Food, Joe Walsh.

Because antibiotics are routinely incorporated into feedstuffs, there are widespread indications that they are being used not simply to treat illness

but to fatten pigs and poultry. The drugs enhance digestion and prevent weight loss, thus saving farmers money.

Yesterday's decision applies to four drugs - Spiramycin, Tylosin phosphate, Virginamycin and Zinbacetrin - although farmers will still be allowed to purchase them from pharmacies to treat illness on a restricted basis. Controls will be introduced at feed mills to ensure the ban on mixing them with feed is observed.

Pharmaceutical producers reacted angrily to the ban. Alpharma, a US-Norwegian company which manufactures Zinbacetrin, said there was no scientific evidence of even a remote risk of resistance build-up

in humans. The drug was not used by humans so the question of build-up was irrelevant, a spokesman said.

Zinbacetrin helped farmers to reduce costs because treated animals could eat less for the same results, he said.

The ban will be reviewed in two years to take account of any new scientific evidence.

Four other animal feed drugs will remain on the market but EU scientists are considering whether to extend the ban to them.

Spain, Portugal and Belgium abstained in yesterday's vote, arguing that the evidence of a link between farm use of antibiotics and human resistance was not convincing.

### IN BRIEF

#### BBC reporter cleared of assault

A BBC journalist was yesterday cleared of assaulting a former girlfriend. Philip Mercer, 31, a reporter on Radio 1's *Newsbeat*, had denied assaulting freelance sports journalist Louise Port, 22, during their seven-month relationship. Magistrates at Ealing dismissed the charge.

#### Abandoned newborn 'near death'

A NEWBORN boy found in a garden could have been as little as two hours from death, doctors said. The baby was probably in the cold for up to six hours after he was abandoned on a lawn in the village of Sco Ruston, near North Walsham, Norfolk. He was found at 7am yesterday.

#### Damages over schoolboy arrest

A BLACK man who claimed he was beaten and racially abused by police when he was 12 years old has won £1,000 in damages at the High Court. Jermaine Jauvel, 23, won the compensation on a nine-one majority verdict for wrongful arrest following a 1987 incident in south London.

#### Ex-teacher loses basketball claim

A FORMER teacher lost her High Court action for damages over a prank in which she was hit by a basketball. Anne Etheridge suffered headaches after the 1994 incident at Robertsbridge College, East Sussex and retired early. But the court said no one was to blame.

#### Piped festive music 'a scourge'

PIPED MUSIC played in shops and restaurants over the Christmas period is bad for business and a scourge of modern life. A study, commissioned by the Royal National Institute for Deaf People, has revealed that 81 per cent of people questioned found festive piped music annoying.

## Ulster talks end in Unionist rift

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK  
Ireland Correspondent

A DAY of political activity in Belfast yesterday brought not a breakthrough in the stalled peace process but the unexpected splintering of a minor Unionist party opposed to the Good Friday Agreement.

The Ulster Unionist Party's deputy leader, John Taylor, said after a meeting with the nationalist SDLP that the chances of making progress this week had risen from 50 to 60 per cent, raising cautious hopes that agreement might be found on the shape of the new Northern Ireland government.

Further talks will be held today in the hope of clinching agreement before the Christmas recess.

But as the major parties bargained in private, attention was centred on the pyrotechnics within the UK Unionist party, which holds five of the Northern Ireland Assembly's 108 seats. Four assembly members said they were withdraw-

ing their support from the party leader, Robert McCartney, after a row in which they alleged he "impugned their integrity". Mr McCartney responded that their conduct "indicates a lack of political judgement of quite alarming proportions".

He was reportedly ready to withdraw from the assembly in the event of Sinn Féin being brought into government. His four colleagues wanted to fight their case within the assembly.

Although the dispute has no vital significance in terms of the assembly's arithmetic, it is seen as symptomatic of the divided and confused state of political Unionism. The Unionist cause in the assembly is now represented by members fractured into six different factions.

David McKittrick. Review, Page 4



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# Flabby youngsters put health at risk

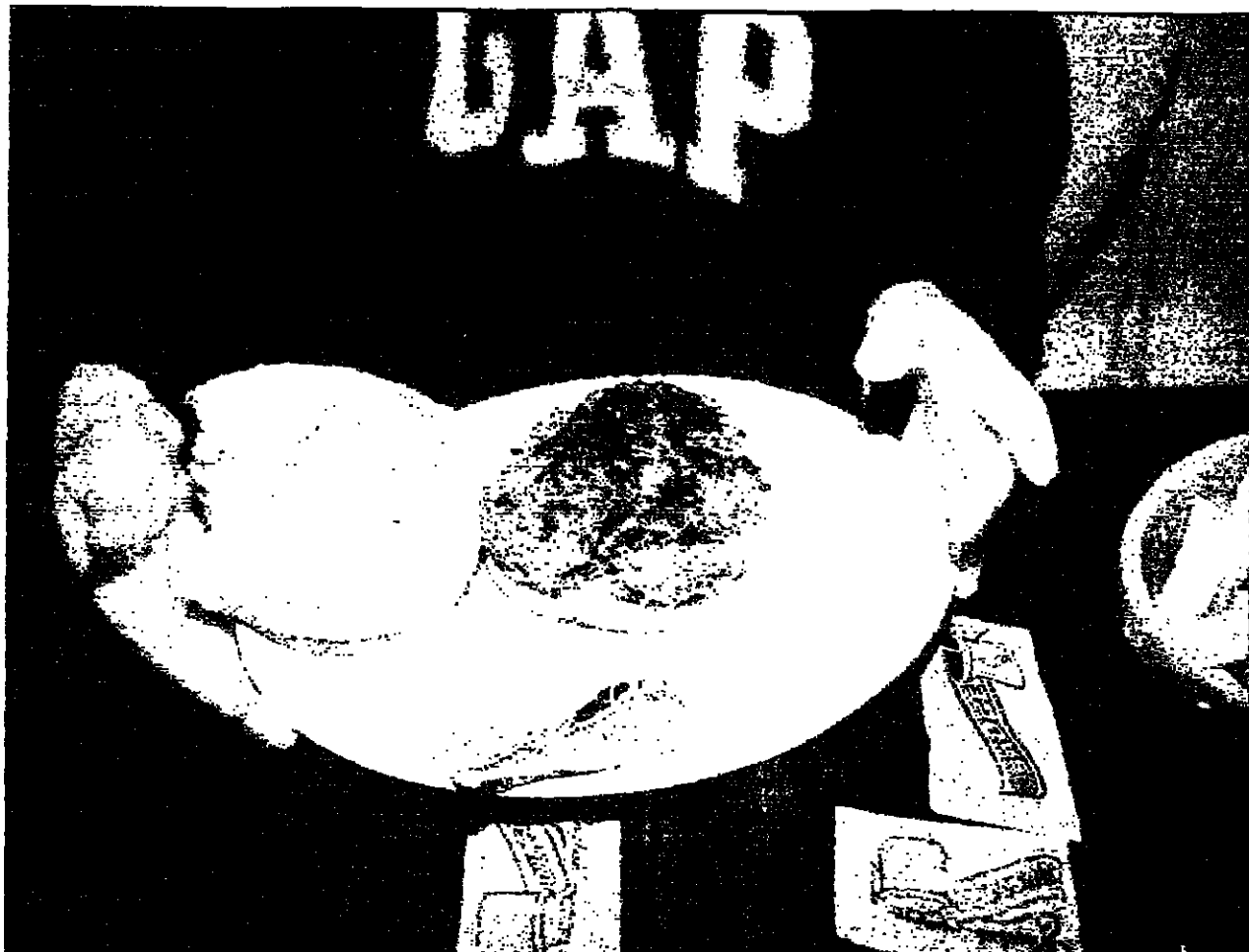
BY JEREMY LAURANCE  
Health Editor

FLABBY YOUTHS who prefer to hide behind the bike sheds with a sticky bun and a cigarette rather than chase a football round the sports field present one of the greatest challenges to public health, the Government's chief medical officer said yesterday.

Professor Liam Donaldson said the problems suffered by young people over their weight was one of the most striking findings from a survey, "The Health of Young People 1995-97", released yesterday. The survey, the largest ever undertaken, shows that one-third of those aged 16-24 were overweight or obese.

Most of those carrying excess flab were aware of the problem and were trying to shed it. But, more worryingly, young women tended to perceive themselves as overweight, even when they were not. Almost half of those who were at their desirable weight, defined as a body mass index (a measure that combines weight and height) of 21-25, said they were trying to lose weight. Even among the underweight (body mass index of 20 or less) one in ten said they were dieting.

Professor Donaldson said too many young women had negative attitudes to their body image and the problem of eating disorders was pervasive and under-recognised. "It has had wide publicity in the media but more needs to be done on



Junk food and lack of exercise contribute to the high proportion of young people with a weight problem. Photofusion

that front by the health service," he said.

The levels of smoking found among young people are among the highest recorded. Instead of questionnaires, which are unreliable, the researchers

from the Department of Public Health at University College, London, who conducted the survey, took samples of saliva and measured the levels of cotinine, a metabolite of nicotine, which gives an accurate picture

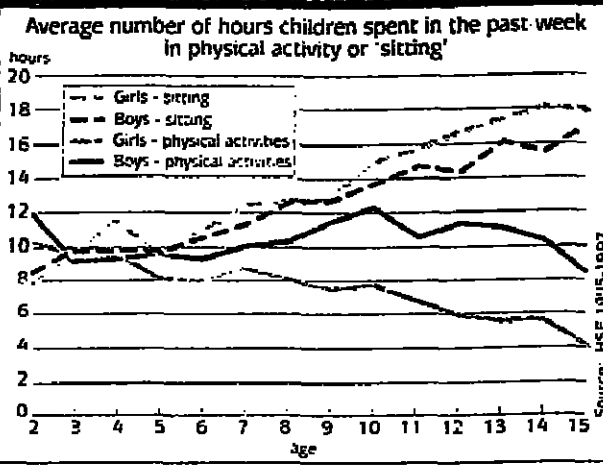
of whether the sample comes from a smoker.

The results showed smoking increased from 20 per cent of boys at age 16 to 40 per cent at 18 and from 25 per cent of girls at 16 to 30 per cent at 18. By

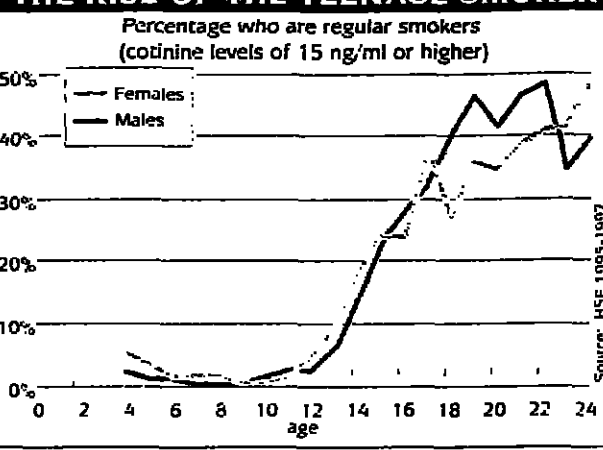
their early twenties more than 40 per cent of both sexes were regular smokers.

The proportion of children with cotinine levels above 15 nanograms per millilitre, indicating that they were regular

## THE GROWTH OF THE COUCH POTATO



## THE RISE OF THE TEENAGE SMOKER



cial classes IV and V smoking endures into adult life. People in upper social classes seem to drop it," he said.

The social class gradient was evident across almost every measure of ill health. The children of the poor eat less fruit and vegetables, smoke more, suffer more emotional problems and rate their own health as worse than the children of the rich.

Professor Donaldson said the Government's White Paper on public health, to be published in the new year, would address ways of preventing the health gap between the classes opening up in childhood.

"Health overall has improved a great deal in the second half of this century. Against that background of improvements in most of the causes of death we have seen these social class differences persisting. The White Paper will look at measures across government departments in environment, transport and housing, and public health programmes will strongly benefit from joining them together. It represents a fundamental change of emphasis with the past.

One message does appear to have got through: The need to use sun-cream to prevent sunburn. Over 90 per cent of 12-15 year olds rated this as "very important". Parents also rated it as the most important way of protecting the skin.

However, use of sun-cream declined with age, from 89 per cent at age three to 70 per cent at age 12 and 57 per cent at 15.

## OUR STUDENT LIFE

**Alistair**  
Aged 20, 6ft 2in, about 13st 7lb.  
Diet: A lot of soup and toast. Pasta and tuna mayonnaise. Sometimes bolognese and vegetables.



Alistair: soup and toast

Drinking: Not a lot compared to other students. No bingeing but likes to get "merry".  
Smoking: No.  
Exercise: Rows twice a week and goes to the gym three or four times a week.  
"My diet's not too bad - I don't do kebabs much. I think my drinking is under control. I know a lot of people through the sports clubs, and most people do sport for the social and enjoyment side of it, rather than to get fit."

Drinking: At least one or two pints every night at work. No getting drunk, just socialising.  
Smoking: Sometimes, but, again, just socially.  
Exercise: Too busy to fit it in.  
"My diet is very, very bad - mostly because I'm running around from place to place. I worry about my health and every week I decide to do something about it, but it never works out that way."

**Rosie**  
Aged 19, 5ft 10in, about 9st.  
Diet: Tries to eat healthily and likes fruit and salads. Has "a Pringle addiction" and loves savoury foods and ice-cream. Usually has a sandwich for lunch and pasta and salad for dinner. Sometimes fast food, but not very often.



Rosie: Pringle addict

Drinking: Likes wine and beer but doesn't feel that she overdoes it very often.  
Smoking: No.  
Exercise: Plans to take exercise, and goes swimming sometimes. She hopes to do aerobics with her mum when she goes home for Christmas.  
"I do worry that I don't eat properly. When I go home I'm going to try and learn to cook. As for drink, I'm never going

**Rachael**  
Aged 20, 5ft 5in, 8st 7lb.  
Diet: Eats whatever is to hand. More of a sandwich girl than a burger girl.  
Drinking: Drinks a lot but doesn't worry as she can always remember the night before. Recently drank half a bottle of Bucks Fizz, two glasses of wine and five gin and tonics and still wasn't drunk. "I can go without for ages."  
Smoking: She has cut down from 15 to about five a day, but will have about 20 in a night if she goes out.  
Exercise: Swims about once a term. She used to do lots of sport at school but hasn't done anything at college.  
"People aren't very fit because we have transport everywhere now. You have so many choices so you go out with your friends rather than go to the gym."

**Ian**  
Aged 19, 5ft 11in, 11st 7lb.  
Diet: Usually McDonald's or Burger King or fried food (at part-time job in a bar).

This Student Life. Review, page 8

## Blood mix-up left boy brain-damaged

BY JEREMY LAURANCE  
Health Editor

A BABY was left severely brain-damaged after being given the wrong blood in a transfusion because of a mix-up over surnames, a court heard yesterday. James Green needed the transfusion because he fell seriously ill with jaundice when he was four days old but he was given blood intended for another newborn baby with the same name. Instead of O-positive, the commonest type, he received the rarer A-negative which triggered a reaction causing convulsions and heart failure.

The "mismatch" occurred at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow, Essex in March 1992. James, now aged six, cannot walk, stand without support, talk or do anything for himself.

All hospitals were told to review their procedures for handling blood earlier this year after a study by the Serious Hazards of Transfusion (SHOT) group revealed 169 cases in which errors had been made, putting patients at risk.

In 13 cases patients died and in a further 39 they suffered serious injury requiring treatment in intensive care or

dialysis for kidney failure. Blood for transfusions has to be carefully matched against the blood group and tissue type of the patient before being given to avoid triggering a serious reaction.

James's parents, Dudley and Patricia Green, are seeking substantial damages from North Essex Health Authority, on behalf of their son, at the High Court in London. The health authority has admitted liability and agreed many of the sums claimed, but there is still a dispute over the extent of James's future care needs.

The family's counsel, Robert Owen QC, told Mr Justice Thomas: "He requires care in every aspect of his life, but he is a very lively, intelligent, good-humoured and happy child against all adversities."

Mr Green, a policeman, and his wife, of Stanbourne, Essex, also have a five-year-old daughter, Felicity, and an 18-month-old son, William.

Mrs Green, 43, wept in the witness box as she described the family's "hand-to-mouth"

existence. "We are just trying to survive and have been for nearly seven years," she said.

She told the court that James was at boarding school during the week but looked forward to coming home at weekends. It was expected that he would live with his parents for the rest of his life.

She said the family wanted to care for him at home. "We want him safe and want to be with him. I particularly feel responsible for what happened in the first place, and feel I have to be protective," she said.

About 3 million blood transfusions are carried out each year, the vast majority without problems, but when problems do occur they tend to follow a pattern. The findings of the first annual report by SHOT, published earlier this year, said the commonest error, accounting for almost half the cases, was a mix-up in which blood intended for one patient was given to another.

The group was set up independently of the National Blood Service to monitor the safety of blood transfusion.

The hearing, set to last three days, continues.

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# Extra pension for stay-at-home mothers

MOTHERS WHO stay at home will qualify for extra pensions of up to £50 a week under plans to be announced by the Government today.

People who look after sick or elderly relatives will also receive a second pension when they reach retirement age on top of the basic state pension, now £64.70 a week for a single person and £103.40 for a couple.

Four million mothers and

BY ANDREW GRICE  
Political Editor

carers will benefit from the Government's decision to pay their contributions, under proposals in a Green Paper to be unveiled by Alistair Darling, the Secretary of State for Social Security.

"These carers are doing important and worthwhile work, but it has not been re-

flected in their pensions in the past," a government source said last night. "There is a strong moral case for their efforts to be rewarded."

The decision to boost the pensions of women who give up work to bring up their children will be seen as a measure aimed at bolstering family life.

Church leaders have urged the Government to reward marriage through the tax sys-

tem and give financial help to stay-at-home mothers, while the Tories have accused Labour of undermining the family by bringing in generous help with child care costs.

Mr Darling's so-called "carers' pension" will form part of a wider package under which the Government will help people who seek to provide a decent income for their own retirement. The Secretary of

State will argue that those who can afford to save for their old age have a responsibility to do so, so the state can concentrate its resources on the genuinely poor. The Green Paper will include a mixture of incentives and penalties aimed at persuading the eight million people not saving for their retirement to take out new "stakeholder pensions".

Workers who save may be al-

lowed to pay lower national insurance contributions, while those who do nothing when they could make provision for themselves may face lower benefits in retirement.

But the Government will stop short of the compulsory scheme proposed by Frank Field, who resigned as the Welfare Reform minister in July. The Tories will seize on the rejection of Mr Field's ideas as

evidence that Tony Blair has backed away from radical changes to the social security system, despite his pledge to switch part of the £100bn-a-year budget to education.

Mr Darling said that forcing people on low incomes to save more was not feasible. "I part company with those who say 'compel everyone to save'. I don't believe compulsion is the key issue. There are other ways

of achieving what I want," he said. People earning less than £9,000 a year would have their pension contributions subsidised by the state.

The Tories will accuse the Government of "tinkering" while the Liberal Democrats will criticise it for rejecting a compulsory system, which they say is necessary to ensure poor people receive an adequate income in retirement.

## When the elderly need protecting from their 'carers'

BY JACK O'SULLIVAN

THREE YEARS ago John Tipplady, owner of a private nursing home in Yorkshire, was spotted behaving strangely towards an elderly female resident. Then Judith Jones, a staff member at the home, found what she thought was semen on the lady's cardigan and hair.

Having destroyed any evidence in cleaning up the elderly woman she felt unsure what to do. Her word would not count against Mr Tipplady, who had a respected career in the care sector and had won awards. The residents, some blind, some suffering from senile dementia, were unreliable witnesses.

She phoned Action on Elder Abuse, who put her in touch with help. Eventually, she took a swab from another elderly patient's mouth. The specimen was found to contain semen, and sealed Tipplady's fate. Last year he was jailed for four years for indecent assault. The judge condemned "the vilest abuse of trust imaginable".

No one likes to think of incidents like these. But they do happen. Elderly people are as vulnerable to abuse as young children. And because of their disabilities, it can be just as hard for them to be taken seriously. Indeed, the biggest problem is inadequate aware-



THE INDEPENDENT

ness among professionals. That is why we are asking readers to support Action on Elder Abuse as one of three charities benefiting from The Independent's Christmas Appeal. Since its foundation in 1993, the charity has emerged as a vital advocate protecting old people.

Stephanie Coningham was a typical caring professional who thought her aged mother was safe. Ms Coningham, a social worker, thoroughly checked the local authority home into which she placed her mother, Mary Watts, who was 81, suffering from Parkinson's Disease and severe arthritis.

Then, one night, care staff found that a mentally ill old man had climbed into Mrs Watts' bed and was sexually assaulting her. "All the staff did was to take him to his room and report what had happened," said Ms Coningham. "No one took any precautions against it happening again."

"Two days later, during another night check, the man was again found in her bed. He had put three carotids around my mother's face and wrapped one tightly around her neck. He was sexually assaulting her and she was very distressed."

Yet Mrs Watts received no counselling. The man was allowed to stay in the home. His victim had to share the same day room for meals. "My mother had Parkinson's and so had a very passive face," said her daughter. "So the staff seemed to think she was not upset. But she was terribly distressed about being near what she called 'that horrible man'. She was a church-goer, a member of a generation that was horrified by any sexual impropriety. I had to explain to them what she needed. I wanted her to have someone to talk to about it, because she was too embarrassed to speak to me, her daughter, about something like this. But nothing was done."

Ms Coningham contacted Action on Elder Abuse who helped her to complain effectively. "They were superb. They listened brilliantly and put me in touch with a good solicitor." Not wishing to put her mother through a court case, Ms Coningham won a £2,500 settlement, which was spent on extra visits for her mother.

The helpline (0800 731 4141)



An old man in a residential home: If things go wrong, Action on Elder Abuse can help

Tim Dub

is not simply for those who spot abuse. It is also for carers under strain. Like Jane, who, after her parents died, found herself in her mid-twenties solely responsible for the care of her fractious grandmother. "We loved each other very much but she became very difficult," said Jane. "One day I got so cross when I was driving that

I slammed the brakes on and almost shot her through the windscreen. She was very shaken. I became like a horrible bully. I could see people staring at me, wondering why I was shouting at this frail old lady. She was very arthritic. But I would be too rough taking her out of the bath or dressing her. One day, I took her by the shoulders and shook her. I remember that look of bewilderment in her eyes."

Ryan Sampson of Action on Elder Abuse says one of the biggest problems is theft. Frequently it is relatives, granted power of attorney, enriching themselves at the elderly person's expense. In other cases it is plain deception.

"In care homes," said Mr Sampson, "they are supposed to receive about £13 a week personal allowance, but many either do not receive it or find there are charges for basics like

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Please Note: From time to time, Age Concern England would like to allow other responsible organisations to write to its supporters. However, if you prefer not to be contacted by other such organisations, please box this tick: ☐ 9581011

soaps, which miraculously add up to £13."

Mr Sampson added: "Older people are very vulnerable in lots of ways. They need outsiders who will listen to them

and back them up. That's why we are here."

The Action on Elder Abuse helpline (0800 731 4141) is open on weekdays from 10am to 4.30pm.

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## Hunger striker's friends 'exaggerated' suffering

BY JOHN DAVISON

REPORTS by friends of the hunger striker Barry Horne about his condition were "banned and inaccurate", a hospital spokesman said yesterday. The comments came after speculation that Horne's fast had been a charade, with animal-rights activists seeking to apply extra pressure on the Government by exaggerating his suffering and predicting his imminent death. There were also rumours that Horne had been taking sustenance during the 68-day protest.

A spokesman for York district hospital confirmed that, in its view, Horne - serving an 18-month jail sentence for arson - had not taken any food during the fast. But he added: "Information given to the press by his supporters has always been flawed and inaccurate."

He also made clear that, on



Barry Horne: Suffered 'no irreversible damage'

admission to the hospital last month, Horne had chosen to rehydrate himself by taking sweetened tea for 38 hours, and then fruit juice for a further three-and-a-half days, before returning to taking only water. Horne was moved from the

hospital back to Full Sutton prison last Thursday after refusing further treatment. He was re-admitted to the hospital after calling off the strike at 4.30pm on Sunday, and his condition was said to be improving yesterday. He is now taking sweetened tea, soya milk and vitamin supplements.

At various times over the past 10 days his supporters claimed he had gone deaf, blind, had suffered liver damage and that his body was consuming his internal organs.

The hospital spokesman said that when Horne left them last week he had suffered "no irreversible damage".

Sources at the prison said yesterday that they had been surprised at what a good condition he was in. A new power point had been installed in the medical wing so that he could watch television.

"You don't normally do that

if you are blind," said the source.

Tony Humphries, a friend of Horne's and a campaigner with the Animals Betrayed Coalition which supported him during the action, dismissed "ludicrous" suggestions that it had not been a proper hunger strike.

Horne launched his hunger strike to press for a Royal Commission on vivisection, but the Government consistently stressed that it would not give in to blackmail.

He finally abandoned the strike after seeing proposals for new co-operation between the Animal Procedures Committee, which oversees animal experiments, and the Associate Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare, a cross-party group of MPs.

"This has got the potential to be a major step forward, as long as Labour don't try and con us again," said Mr Humphries.

## England lays claim to 'Auld Lang Syne'

ROBERT BURNS wrote the words to the New Year anthem *Auld Lang Syne*, but the music was by the 18th century English composer William Shield, according to new evidence.

Shield, who was born in 1748 in Swallow, south of the Tyne, wrote an operatic piece called *Rosina*, the story of a country

girl. The original score turned up in Gateshead public library, and was passed to a local musical director who found the melody near the end.

Chris Stewart, of the BBC's *Look North* television programme, who made the dis-

covery, said a letter that Burns wrote in 1788 revealed he had taken his lead for *Auld Lang Syne* from a "man's singing".

Gateshead council now wants *Auld Lang Syne* recognised as a local tune in time for the millennium celebrations. Sid Henderson, the council's chairman of libraries and arts,

said: "Come New Year's Eve 2000, millions of people across the globe will be singing along to the tune [Shield] wrote."

Mr Stewart said: "It's certainly controversial and could help put Gateshead on the musical map, even though the claim to fame won't go down too well north of the border."



# Efficiency squad will monitor arts

A NEW efficiency squad to monitor the arts across the nation - from museums and galleries to theatres and orchestras - is to be set up by Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media, and Sport.

Among areas it will examine are salary levels in the national companies. The Culture Department is concerned that far more staff at the Royal Opera House earn above £50,000 a year than at the National Theatre or the Royal Shakespeare Company. It will also look at potential ideas from the sports sector.

The squad will be established next week, made up initially of six civil servants reporting to Mr Smith. He unveiled the new unit, called Quest (Quality, Efficiency and Standards Team), yesterday as he announced changes to the arts funding system and de-

BY DAVID LISTER  
Arts News Editor

tailed grants to the national museums. He also set out his shake-up of government-funded bodies in the arts, museums, film, tourism, architecture, sport and heritage sectors.

Mr Smith said it was "a serious and timely review of the relationship between the Government and the cultural world". The Government could not just provide the money and sit back and hope for results, he said. "We will give direction: we will set targets and chase progress, and where appropriate we will take direct action to make sure that our objectives are achieved."

A £290m grant will be phased in over three years, with arts and museums the main winners. The Arts Council of England's £190m budget would

increase to £227m from next April, to £237m in 2000, and to £252m in 2001. Museums and galleries would see their allocation rise from £203m this year to £247m in 2001.

The three-year deals would offer more stability, Mr Smith said. But he added: "In all cases the financial allocations will be closely tied to outcomes which reflect our four central themes - access, excellence and innovation, education and the creative industries."

He was challenged that setting up the new squad was riding roughshod over the "arm's length" principle - in which government gave money but did not interfere with the running of institutions - under which the arts have been funded since the Second World War.

A Culture Department source said later that the "arm's length" principle has

been "reinvented". Mr Smith defended the change, saying that eventually Quest would be expanded. The idea was to include people with experience of running arts institutions.

Mr Smith said that children and pensioners would have free access to museums from next year. Adults would continue to have free access to museums that are now free. Some £30m has been put into a fund while negotiations with museums continue. The Science Museum and Natural History Museum in London are reluctant to give up charging.

David Barrie, director of the National Art Collections Fund, which campaigns for free admission, said: "Will the £30m which the Government has put aside for 2001 be enough to do the trick?"



Children enjoying an interactive exhibit at the Science Museum, which is reluctant to end charges Robert Hallam

## CULTURE OF CHANGE FOR A NEW ERA

THE ROYAL Fine Art Commission will be replaced by a new Architecture Commission to advise on architecture and disseminate good practice. "Coincidentally" this will mean farewell to Lord St John of Fawsley (right), the former Conservative cabinet minister Norman St John-Stevens, who chaired the RFAC and has been on New Labour's hit list since before the general election.

The various film-funding bodies will be brought together into a new British Film Council, which will also oversee the National Lottery money that goes towards film. This is yet another attempt to make the British film industry more of a competitor to Hollywood. Lord Attenborough (right) was heavily involved in the new body's creation.

The Arts Council of England and the Crafts Council will be brought together, which means the Crafts Council is swallowed up, though there are safeguards for its work with craftspeople. The Arts Council received a 15 per cent grant increase yesterday and is due to distribute a chunk of that to the Royal Opera House on Thursday.

The Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England is being subsumed into English Heritage to form a single body to look after England's historic buildings. A new strategic body, the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council will be created to replace the existing Museums and Galleries Commission and the Library and Information Commission. A "transformed, more effective, slimmer" tourism body will replace the English Tourist Board.



## Museum post signals end of curator power

THE BRITISH Museum will this week advertise for a managing director. The advertisement signals a new approach to running museums in this country which could ultimately mean the end of the scholar director.

Whoever gains the new post will work alongside the museum's director Dr Robert Anderson. But, crucially, the new managing director could earn more than Dr Anderson and he or she will be in charge of all financial and business matters.

Senior sources say the appointment of a managing director to one of the world's best known museums and Britain's leading tourist attraction has been demanded by Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, in discussions with the museum's chairman, Graham Greene.

It marks something that many in the museum world have long feared - the separation of responsibility for finance and curatorship.

The desire for business expertise is demonstrated by the fact that the job is not being advertised in arts publications but in *The Economist*. Robert Anderson is on a salary of £81,000. A spokesman for the

BY DAVID LISTER  
Arts News Editor

British Museum said that the new managing director's salary would be arranged "by negotiation" but would be in line with Dr Anderson's salary. However, he did not rule out the possibility that it could be more.

There have been particular worries about the British Museum following a report by a former Treasury official in 1996 which revealed that the museum didn't then have a qualified accountant, and urged that its displays be more eye-catching.

Mark Taylor, director of the Museums' Association, the professional body for museums and their staff, said yesterday: "You don't have to be a football observer to note that having two managers at Liverpool didn't work."

"I personally wouldn't rule out people with non-curatorial skills running museums provided they understand the ethos of the museum. But it is very worrying if it means a shift towards a more commercial attitude, away from the unique selling point of the British Museum which is its collections."

## DAVID AARONOVITCH

My name is not an old English moniker. I am third-generation scum

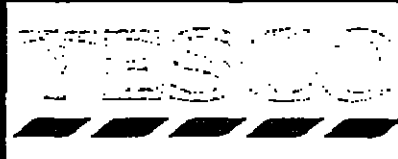
IN THE TUESDAY REVIEW PAGE 3

# Wise men. (And women.) Follow the star.



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# Getting the message across, again and again and again

THERE ARE few phrases more useful in the House than "Can my right honourable friend confirm?", at least, that is, when they are uttered by a loyal backbencher MP. If the invitation is made to "the right honourable gentleman" there is at least a faint possibility that something novel is to be confirmed. That the right honourable gentleman was seen leaving the Hot Toddy lap-dancing club last Thursday evening, perhaps, or that his assurances on tax harmonisation are as reliable as an ex-fleet Trabant. But when Gerald Kaufman asks the Prime Minister to rise in confirmation you can be pretty sure that

the question is designed solely to allow Mr Blair to repeat himself.

Yesterday he took the opportunity, confirming without obvious anxiety that on the whole it was better for us to engage constructively in European debates rather than emulate the long Conservative history of destructive negativity. This was a fruitful intervention on Mr Kaufman's part since without it the Prime Minister would only have been able to get this central message across 23 times (my figures may not be absolutely precise, you understand, but they're in the right ballpark). Naturally Tory backbenchers help rack up the Prime

Minister's score-rate too, mostly because the rare opportunity to put a Parliamentary question to Mr Blair will never be surrendered simply because it has already been answered in the previous few minutes.

Mr Hague gets the first crack at the PM, of course, and employs his own repetitions to do it. Responding to the Prime Minister's statement on the Vienna summit yesterday, he had chosen Mr Blair's consistency as the theme of the day and "saying one thing to one audience in one place and another to one audience in another" as the soundbite of the day. Some of us would have been grateful for a bit more

## THE SKETCH



THOMAS  
SUTCLIFFE

creative variation from Mr Blair, rather than less. He could usefully have said one thing to one audience

in one place and something completely different to the same audience a bit later. But it was not to be, in the face of a Tory party so aroused by the whiff of European co-operation that it rose as one when the Prime Minister sat down, a Mexican wave of instinctive revision. Award for the most lurid backbench contribution, in a hotly contested competition, went to Sir Peter Tapsell, who sought reassurance that discussions of defence policy would not end with a "German finger on the British nuclear trigger". Where other members have a vision of foreign policy Sir Peter has a yellowing Mac car-

toon - in which a crop-haired figure with a pickelhaube helmet and a string of sausages around his neck reaches out a fat Teutonic digit for the button marked "The bomb". Mr Hague himself has still not entirely recovered the form he displayed just after the Queen's Speech, and although his performance yesterday went through the motions, shining a bright light on the hope of casting a spooky shadow on the opposite benches ("look children, this one's a rabbit with secret plans for a federal super-state") nothing truly delighted his troops. Even his valedictory witticism gave

off a cracked note. The Prime Minister, he said, should come clean about exactly what he meant rather than "running around Europe giving more false impressions than Rory Bremner". True, Mr Bremner still has a little bit of polishing to do on his Mandelson, but otherwise most of his imitations are enjoyably accurate, which made Mr Hague's final barb sound more like an unprovoked attack on an innocent impressionist than an effective jab at the Prime Minister. Given Mr Hague's recent troubles with his public image I'm not sure this is the right moment to make new enemies.

# Lunatics run Tory policy, says Blair

THE PRIME Minister angrily accused William Hague of having lost control over his party's European policy yesterday, claiming "lunatics had taken over the asylum".

Tony Blair, in a Commons statement on the European Council in Vienna, said the Conservative leader's policy was determined by the "head-bangers" who served in his Shadow Cabinet.

Earlier, Mr Hague attacked the Prime Minister's denial that there would be uniform tax rates within the European Union, saying the Prime Minister's "habit of saying one thing to an audience in one place and another to an audience in another place is catching up with him".

Mr Hague agreed there was an "overwhelming case" for duty free sales to be kept, but attacked Mr Blair for "going with the flow" in his discussions with EU colleagues.

"Can you confirm that while you were telling the British media that the rebate was not up for negotiation, you were

EUROPE  
BY SARAH SCHAEFER  
Political Reporter

busily telling the Austrian media that there would be wide-ranging negotiations in which the rebate would come up for discussion?

"Wouldn't that be a much more effective way to ensure your thoughts are reported accurately than whining about the British press?"

Rather than making pledges on uniform tax rates, Mr Blair should have insisted on an end to tax harmonisation, the Tory leader said, adding: "Wouldn't arguing against these real threats have demonstrated more backbone than arguing against imaginary threats?"

Replying, Mr Blair said it was "perfectly sensible" to try to reform some European tax practices as they were "harmful to this country".

"If the Tories were in power today, we would not have an ally anywhere, no influence, no authority, no ability to get our own way... under your leadership

the lunatics have taken over the asylum. You're not running your party. The policy of your party is determined by the head-bangers who have surrounded yourself with in the Shadow Cabinet".

"This country's national interest lies in being part of Europe. That's the way to win in Europe and that is what this Government shall do," he added.

Menzies Campbell, Liberal Democrat foreign affairs spokesman, welcomed Mr Blair's "apparent recent conversion to the view that government policy in Europe is determined by what is best for Britain, and not what is least offensive to certain newspaper proprietors".

Gerald Kaufman, the former Labour minister and MP for Manchester Gorton, said "the best way to gain concessions, such as on duty free or the beef ban" was not by "the tantrums and boycotts in which the other side indulged when in Government, but by co-operation and winning over friends".



The Conservative MP Virginia Bottomley MP (left) who was Secretary of State for Health between 1992 and 1995, after giving evidence to the BSE inquiry, in London yesterday Mark Childers

## Labour 'out to shackle mayor'

LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
BY PAUL WAUGH  
AND SARAH SCHAEFER

MINISTERS were accused yesterday of inserting "Livingstone clauses" into the Greater London Authority Bill to ensure that the capital's mayor kept in line with government policy.

Tories and Liberal Democrats said parts of the Bill would give sweeping powers to John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for the Environment.

More than 250 clauses in the proposed legislation were designed to prevent an independent-minded mayor such as Ken Livingstone from carrying out radical policies, they said.

Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrat MP who used the Commons debate to declare that he would stand for mayor, said the Bill would give Mr Prescott "Henry VIII"-style control over the new Greater London Authority (GLA).

Fears that Mr Livingstone, MP for Brent East, might seek to turn the majority into a new power base had led to the creation of the clauses designed severely to restrict his remit, said Mr Hughes.

One key section would allow the Environment Secretary to take from the mayor the proceeds of proposed "congestion charges" on London's roads.

Although the Government said that it would protect such proceeds for the first 10 years of the GLA, Mr Hughes pointed out that the Bill gave it the power to rescind the promise.

Other "Livingstone clauses" meant that the mayor would have to devise strategies in line with national policies and that the Environment Secretary could severely restrict mayoral spending.

Opening debate on the second reading of the Bill, Mr Prescott said the GLA would bring back the first city-wide administration since abolition of the Greater London Council in 1986 - providing badly needed accountability and leadership.

He said: "It will strip away the shadowy committees, the burgeoning bureaucracies and quangos created by our predecessors and give Londoners back their voice."

The new authority would have "tremendous power and responsibility", and its relationship with the Environment Secretary would resemble the present relationship between central and local government.

The GLA would control a budget worth several billion pounds, have strategic powers over transport and economic development and would oversee a new, democratically accountable police authority.

He added: "The next stage of devolution, if you like, might and would hopefully be towards regional government."

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## Jenkins fails in bid to head reform of Lords

TONY BLAIR is set to reject a late bid by Lord Jenkins, the former SDP leader, to chair the Royal Commission on the long-term reform of the House of Lords.

Lord Jenkins, who was appointed by Mr Blair to head the review on electoral reform, has only recently delivered his report but offered his services for the review of Lords reform.

The Prime Minister has taken advice from Lord Jenkins since coming to office, but has decided to appoint Lord Butler, the former head of the Cabinet Office under successive prime ministers, as a non-partisan chairman who would be acceptable to the Tories.

Lord Mackay, deputy Conservative leader in the Lords, yesterday said Lord Jenkins would not have been approved by the Tories. The Commission will consider options for long-term reform of the Lords, including direct elections. This idea was supported last night in a report by the Tory Bow Group calling for the Upper House to be made independent of the Government.

It came as William Hague, the Conservative Party leader, laid plans to force the Govern-

HOUSE OF LORDS  
BY COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

ment into a fresh constitutional clash with the House of Lords.

The Conservative leader has ordered Tory peers to vote down the Government's Bill to allow the European elections to be fought on a "closed list" system of candidates.

Mr Blair will have to resort to the Parliament Act for the first time to override the Lords' vote and force the Bill through in time for the elections.

Speeding up the passage of the European Parliamentary Elections Bill will allow time for three new Government Bills, listed in order of priority by Downing Street yesterday: John Prescott's Bill to introduce a rail regulator, the Ministry of Agriculture Bill to introduce a Food Standards Agency, and a Bill to crack down on sleaze in local government by allowing directly elected mayors.

Tory peers last night claimed the high moral ground over a system to which even some Labour peers, MPs and MEPs are opposed, on the grounds that it gives party leaders, not voters, the final choice

over which candidates to send to the European Parliament.

Lord Strathclyde, the Tory leader in the Lords, said rejecting the European Parliamentary Elections Bill showed the Tories would not be "soft" on any legislation, in spite of the recent controversy over deals to allow 91 hereditary peers to survive until the Royal Commission has reported.

"We have no desire to co-operate on the Bill. We think it is a bad Bill. It does bear an undemocratic flavour which wrecks the traditional right of the electorate to vote for a candidate," said Lord Strathclyde.

Lord Cranborne, who was sacked by Mr Hague for doing a deal behind his back with Mr Blair about long-term reform of the Lords, is not expected to vote tonight. The decision to vote the Bill down was taken yesterday at a meeting between Lord Strathclyde and Mr Hague.

Tory peers who attacked Mr Hague for sacking Lord Cranborne were firmly behind his tactics on the Bill. Lord St John of Fawsley said: "I do approve. This is an issue which goes to the heart of the constitution."

## THE HOUSE

Opera House cash criteria

THE ROYAL Opera House, Covent Garden, must have "proper" management standards as a condition for more public money, Alan Howard, the Arts minister said.

He gave his assurance after Michael Jack, the Tory MP for Fylde, said that the December's edition of *Equity* magazine had exposed "a tale of financial incompetence" at the ROH, adding: "How can there be now discussion of more public funding being made available for this sorry institution?"

## No switch-on date for digital

CHRIS SMITH, the Secretary of State for Culture, ruled out setting a target date for switching Britain's free television channels to digital transmission until it was sure access would be as widely available and affordable. He said: "Poor people should not be forced to pay too much for the necessary equipment."

## Dome alone

THE NEW Millennium Experience Company, responsible for raising sponsorship for the Millennium Dome, is no longer using the services of the International Management Group, an independent consultancy, Peter Mandelson disclosed.

## 'Keegan' quip

SPORTS MINISTER Tony Banks drew loud laughter in the Commons after he dubbed bouffant-haired Tory Culture spokesman Peter Ainsworth a "Kevin Keegan lookalike." The reference to the footballer came during Question Time exchanges over the future of school sport.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Today's Business

COMMONS Health questions. Greater London Authority Bill, second reading. Debate on European Common Fisheries Policy. Short debate on alternative fuels for freight vehicles, LORDS:

Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Bill, second reading. European Parliamentary Elections Bill, second reading.

150 من الامارات



# Banker loses his battle to stay

A NIGERIAN man who built a successful business after being abandoned in Britain as a boy lost his latest deportation battle yesterday and now faces being sent back to Africa.

The Court of Appeal rejected an application from Ben James, 29, to have his case referred to the House of Lords. He is now planning a last-ditch plea to Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, to show compassion and not deport him. He may also take his case to the European Court.

Mr James, a commodities broker from East Dulwich, London, was brought to Britain at the age of 14 by his father - who feared political persecution - and was enrolled in a private school. During his time there he lost contact with his parents.

Mr James, who has received backing from MP and Health Minister Tessa Jowell, said after yesterday's ruling: "I'm extremely upset, depressed and angry. I don't know where the future lies. I can't go back to where I came from. I don't know the place. I have no home or friends there or enough money to start again. I don't even speak the language."

BY JASON BENNETT  
Crime Correspondent

Britain is my home. I have been told I could be arrested at any moment now and put on a plane to Nigeria.

Mr James fell foul of the immigration authorities by failing to apply for an extension when his original permission to live here as a student ran out in 1986. His case came to light when he approached the Home Office in 1991, trying to put things right. A seven-year legal battle followed.

He said: "What I am hoping for is that the Home Secretary will show a little compassion at the end of the day."

"One wonders what the definition of compassion is. I didn't choose to be left here as a child, nor have I committed any crime. But I've paid my taxes and employed other people in my business. What more could you ask?"

Yesterday, Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Waller rejected his application for leave to seek judicial review. They upheld a High Court ruling that he did not have an arguable case. Mr James wanted



Ben James, who faces deportation after yesterday's ruling. 'I'm hoping the Home Secretary will show a little compassion,' he said. Tom Craig

a review of the Home Secretary's decision not to grant him indefinite leave to remain here and to confirm a deportation order signed in 1994.

Dismissal of the application, Lord Justice Roch said the Home Secretary had been en-

titled to decide last July that the 15 years Mr James had spent building his life in Britain did not outweigh the need for "effective immigration control".

Lord Justice Roch said Mr James had made no attempt to regularise his position until

April 1991 and was therefore not entitled to rely on long-term residence as a valid ground for being allowed to stay.

Outside court, Mr James's solicitor, Tiki Emezie, said further representations would now be made to the Home Of-

fice on compassionate grounds.

An application could also be made to the European Court of Human Rights, based on the argument that it would be "inhumane and degrading treatment" to deport Mr James. Despite an announcement

by the Government in July that all asylum-seekers who arrived in Britain before 1993 would be given leave to stay, ministers have backed moves to deport Mr James. They argue that his case was being examined before the switch in policy.

## Lalique glasses doctored by fakers

BY CATHY COMERFORD

A CASE of mistaken identity in which a buyer paid £500,000 for what turned out to be doctored art deco glass could have repercussions for collectors.

The value of supposedly rare purple Lalique glass objects has already fallen and is likely to drop further after a case in the High Court yesterday.

Motor racing tycoon Mansour Ojeh was awarded £245,000 in damages after the court decided that his collection of purple Lalique car mascots had been artificially coloured long after they were made.

Mr Ojeh who part owns the McLaren Formula One racing team had paid £60,000 each for the 17 deep purple sculptures made by René Lalique. He had also given his own clear crystal glass Lalique mascots in exchange. The court heard how he had been told that the colour made the sculptures more rare and added to their value.

But Mr Justice Buckley ruled yesterday that the colour had been added by a radiation process, possibly in the last 20 years, although he acknowledged the gallery owner who sold them would not have known this. His judgment was supported by evidence from art experts who said Lalique would never have coloured the glass artefacts as it would have been "too vulgar".

The clear glass car mascots, which now sell for about £24,000, were made in France during the Twenties and Thirties. Judge Buckley said: "The dark purple colour does indeed destroy the sense of grace, movement and speed in some of these pieces. Based on all the material before me, I cannot envisage René Lalique using this colour to enhance or even as a variation for his mascots."

The case was brought against gallery owner Mark Waller, a Lalique glass expert, and his company Galerie Moderne, of Belgrave, London, for negligence and breach of contract. The judge found he had not been negligent as he was not expected to be an expert in radiation colouring. However, by giving his personal assurance of authenticity had been in breach of contract.

After the hearing in London, Michael Sears, solicitor for Mr Ojeh, said the purple mascots had been fetching around £121,000 before the irradiation process was discovered. They now barely reach £5,000 a piece.

Mr Waller was ordered to pay £360,402 damages and Galerie Moderne £485,347 damages. They were also ordered to pay Mr Ojeh's costs of £150,000.

## Genetic remedy found to reverse muscle wastage

SCIENTISTS HAVE found a way of permanently preventing muscle wastage in old age in a development that could also be used to boost athletic performance in the young.

The researchers believe the revolutionary treatment could become the basis of a possible cure for the thousands of children with muscular dystrophy, in which an inherited fault causes muscles to degenerate. But they have also warned that the breakthrough, which may permanently increase the size of a person's muscles, could be wrongly applied for cosmetic improvement or to boost athletic performance.

Experiments on laboratory mice showed that infecting the

BY STEVE CONNOR  
Science Editor

animals with a genetically engineered virus increased their muscle strength by 15 per cent in young individuals and by up to 27 per cent in older mice - effectively restoring them to their youthful strength.

The virus, which was rendered harmless before extra genes for a muscle-building factor were added, could one day be used on humans who, like mice, also become feeble with age as a result of muscle loss. "Our results show that it may be possible to preserve muscle size and strength in old age using this approach," said Lee Sweeney, Professor of

Physiology at the University of Pennsylvania and the head of the research team.

"We're now looking to see whether the technique might also be used to increase muscle strength in diseases such as muscular dystrophy."

Details of the research, which will be published later this month in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, were released yesterday at the American Society for Cell Biology in San Francisco.

Professor Kay Davies, of Oxford University, an authority on the genetics of muscular dystrophy, said: "This type of therapy is likely to be generally applicable to man and is a very promising development."

This approach may also be used to improve muscle strength in muscular dystrophy patients which would greatly improve their quality of life."

The virus used in the experiments, called adeno-associated virus, was engineered with a gene for a substance known to trigger the growth of muscle cells during the repair of damaged tissue. Injecting the viruses caused it to infect the animals' cells, introducing the growth-factor gene as it spread within the tissues.

Professor Sweeney said that a number of ethical considerations will have to be addressed before the technique could be used on humans.

## Payouts for staff in homes-for-votes row

A FORMER Tory MP and other leading figures implicated in the Westminster council "homes for votes" scandal are set to receive more than £700,000 to cover their legal bills.

Ministers were reported to be "furious" yesterday when it emerged that three councillors and four council officers linked to the affair would be compensated by the Tory authority. The seven men were criticised by the district auditor for their involvement in the scandal, but were cleared of any wilful misconduct.

Under a report to go before a private meeting of Westminster council tomorrow night, they could receive up to £165,000 each. Tesco heiress

BY PAUL WAUGH  
Political Correspondent

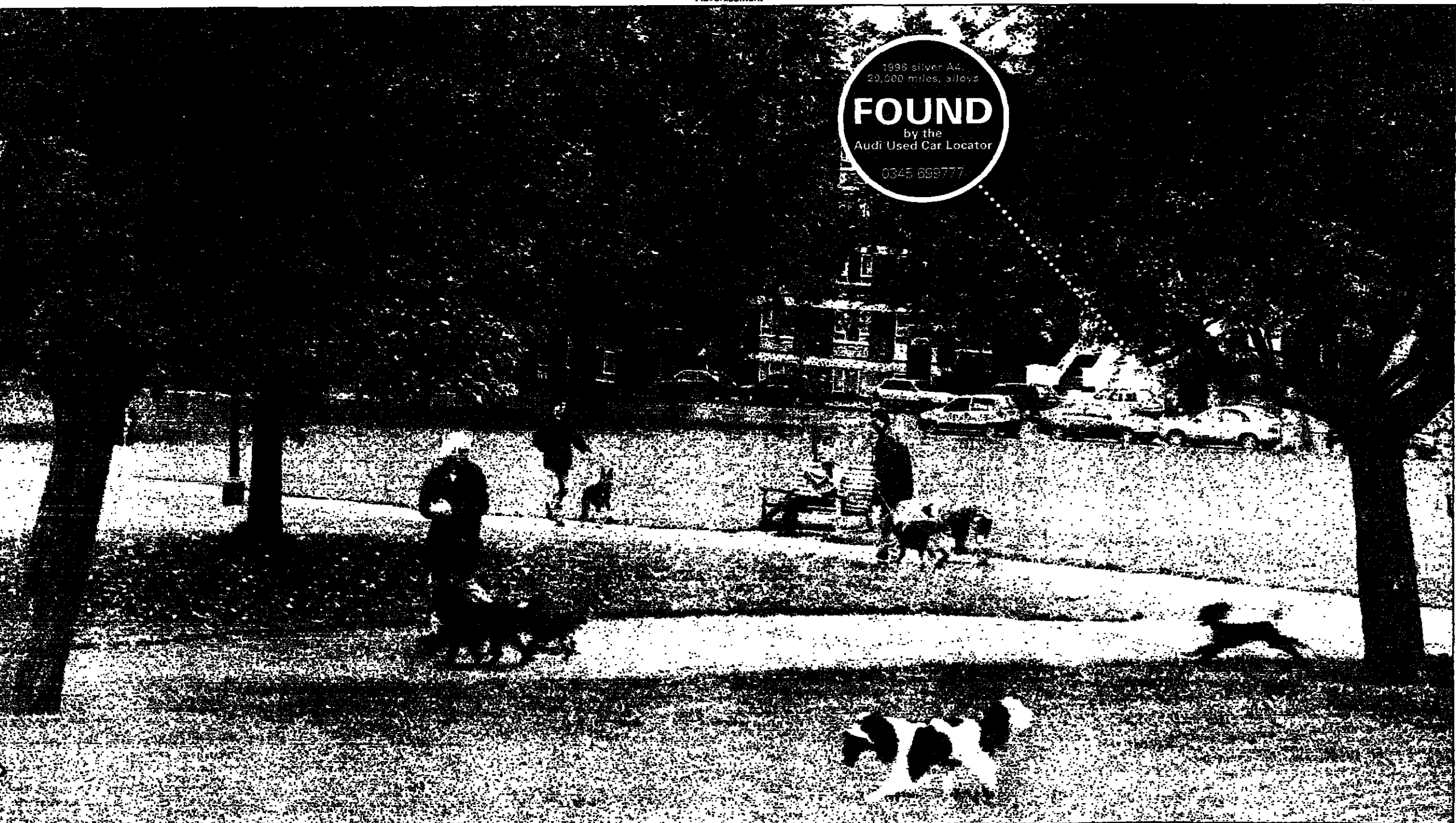
Dame Shirley Porter could also be paid up to £1m from public funds if she wins her appeal against a £27m surcharge imposed on her.

The council's Labour opposition yesterday called on the district auditor to investigate the plan to reimburse former Tory councillors Barry Legg, Alex Segal and Miles Young and the officers.

The report recommends that Mr Legg, who became Tory MP for Milton Keynes before losing his seat at the last general election, should receive £165,000. Mr Young, a former leader of the council, and

Mr Segal should get £80,000. The former managing director of the council, Bill Phillips, will be offered £101,000. A staff association that represented three other officers will be offered £350,000.

A seven-year inquiry found Westminster's former leader, Dame Shirley Porter and her former deputy, David Weeks, guilty of operating an illegal policy of selling flats in marginal wards to potential Tory voters instead of housing the homeless. However, the other councillors and officers were cleared of the most serious charges and now believe that they are entitled to compensation. Ministers turned down similar requests from two councillors this year.



WPC Katie Willis (seated, on bench) on the lookout for stolen dogs in a south London park yesterday. There has been a spate of canine thefts in the area recently.



# Arafat trembles with emotion as the red carpet rolls out for Clinton

HASSAN, a young Palestinian in Jabalya refugee camp close to the centre of Gaza city, was not happy as he waited for the Palestinian leadership to drop the anti-Israel clauses in the Palestinian charter. "I want the refugees to be able to go back before they change it," he said.

These were not wise words on a day when Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, was straining every nerve to make a success of the visit of the United States President Bill Clinton to Gaza, the self-ruled Palestinian enclave. Eight plainclothes policemen stepped forward to remove Hassan for a quick interrogation over what he had said about the visiting American leader.

Palestinians in the streets of Gaza were sceptical. Ibrahim Ali, a money changer watched impassively as Hassan was arrested. "The Clinton visit may put us on the road to a state, but it does more for [Arafat's] Palestinian Authority that it does for the people," he said. "Gaza is still just one big prison."

None of these private doubts would have been evident to President Clinton when his helicopter landed at the newly opened Gaza international airport yesterday morning.

The control tower had almost disappeared inside two enormous American and Palestinian flags. Wall posters showed Mr Clinton and Mr Arafat, apparently hand in hand, with the slogan: "We Have A Dream". Offshore, a flotilla of festively decorated Palestinian fishing boats moved up and down the coast.

"Except for Monica Lewinsky, nobody loves President Clinton like Arafat," said an American diplomat cited by the Israeli press.

When President Clinton and Mr Arafat addressed the Palestinian leadership in the Shawwa centre in the heart of Gaza later in the day, Mr Arafat several times enfolded the US President's hands in his own. In words that cast light on the importance he invests in this visit, the Palestinian leader repeated: "Palestine is reborn again, reborn again." Palestinian police and soldiers were making strenuous efforts to ensure nothing might spoil the rebirth.

All the streets in central Gaza were closed to traffic. There were checkpoints every

BY PATRICK COCKBURN  
in Gaza

200 yards on roads far from where the American and Palestinian leaders were meeting.

A small boy, with a Palestinian flag attached to the back of his bicycle, tried to ride along the road which goes past Mr Arafat's headquarters. The boy was rapidly turned around by three soldiers carrying sub-machine-guns.

In Shati refugee camp, where Hillary Clinton was expected to visit a women's centre, Lieutenant Subhi Azami, who had grown up in Beirut and had fought against Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982, was directing hundreds of police and soldiers as they sealed off roads. He pointed out that Mrs Clinton, unlike her husband, had said she hoped the Palestinians would have their own state.

Looking round at the narrow lanes and breeze block houses, whose poverty a last-minute clean up did not conceal, he said: "Maybe the Americans will see how we are suffering here." As he spoke, two Israeli jets soared overhead, emphasising the limits of Palestinian sovereignty.

The anxiety about security was as much American as Palestinian. Diplomats from the American embassy in Tel Aviv had moved en masse to the Holiday Inn in Ashkelon just up the coast in Israel. From there they have commuted each day for weeks to organise the visit. None has been allowed to spend one night in Gaza. "You've never seen such paranoia," one complained.

Mr Arafat has walked down so many red carpets to meet foreign leaders in the past 30 years that the people of Gaza are dubious about how much good President Clinton's visit will do them.

For once, their cynicism may be misplaced. On arriving at the airport the American leader said the Palestinian people were free to "determine their own destiny on their own land". He cut a ribbon to open the airport, though it was opened with great fanfare several weeks ago.

Mr Arafat is relishing the change in American policy towards the Palestinians.

Twenty years ago a senior American official, prematurely assigning the Palestine Liberation Organisation to its

grave, said: "Bye, bye PLO". Yesterday President Clinton was addressing its leaders, all dressed in suits and uniforms.

"The Palestinians see it as the beginning of the fulfilment of a messianic vision and an independent state," writes Hani Shalev, the Israeli commentator. "They are drunk with the smell of the strategic revolution they have carried in their relations with the American government."

Mr Arafat's strategy has been to agree to everything the Americans wanted. Yesterday he got his reward.

He had signed on to the Wye agreement in October under which he will get back only 13 per cent of land on the West Bank. This means that Israel will continue to hold one-third of the Gaza Strip and 60 per cent of the West Bank. In his speech President Clinton praised the Palestinians for continuing to negotiate when they had good reasons "for walking away".

For the first time President Clinton sympathetically mentioned Palestinian grievances such as the prisoners still held by Israel, Jewish settlements, the confiscation of land and demolition of Palestinian homes. He compared the grief of the children of Palestinian prisoners to that of the children of Israelis who were killed fighting Palestinians.

None of this will be good news for Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, whose prolonged delay in implementing the Oslo accords is blamed by many Israelis for changing American attitudes. There was something plaintive in the way President Clinton told the Palestinians that they should revoke the clauses in the Palestinian charter not to please the Israeli government "but to touch the people of Israel".

President Clinton may suspect that the Israeli withdrawal from another 5 per cent of the West Bank scheduled for next Friday, is not going to take place.

Mr Netanyahu is fighting for his political life. He needs the support of the hard-right to save his coalition in a parliamentary confidence vote next week. He will not get it if the withdrawal goes ahead. Palestinians in Jabalya refugee camp may be right to wonder how many of the fine words spoken in Gaza yesterday will turn into reality.



Palestinian schoolgirls holding a poster welcoming President Bill Clinton to Gaza yesterday. Ruth Fremson/AP

## Gore calls for Clinton censure

BY MARY DEJEVSKY  
in Washington

THE White House appealed for a compromise yesterday as the House of Representatives prepared for its historic debate on Thursday on whether to impeach President Bill Clinton over the Monica Lewinsky affair.

The switch of tack came amid growing fears that the Democrats would be unable to muster the simple majority needed to defeat impeachment in the House and fend off a trial in the Senate.

Vice-President Al Gore, in his first comment since articles of impeachment – alleging perjury, obstruction of justice and abuse of power – were passed by the House judiciary committee, called on Congress to censure rather than impeach. Acknowledging that Mr Clinton's conduct in the Lewinsky affair was "terribly wrong", he condemned Republican leaders for "forcing this vote that the American people do not want".

Mr Clinton, speaking from Gaza, reiterated his own readiness to accept a congressional reprimand. "I have offered to make every effort to make any reasonable compromise with the Congress," he told reporters. But he commented: "I don't believe it's in the interest of the United States and the American people to go through this impeachment process and have a trial in the Senate."

Leading Republicans have stipulated that he must admit to lying under oath as the prelude to any compromise. But the White House sees the demand as a trap that could make the President liable to prosecution when he leaves office.

Meanwhile, telephone calls from Clinton aides to the 30 or so congressmen still undecided ahead of Thursday's vote were said to be making little headway. Attempts to mobilise sympathetic business leaders to give warning of the risks to the national wellbeing from a Senate trial were written off as a failure.

# Iran's intelligentsia shaken by wave of murders

"WE ARE expecting some more assassinations," a source close to the Iranian security services told me a few weeks ago. When he spoke, Dariussh Forouhar and his wife had already been killed but the grisly murders of three other Iranians had yet to be committed. "President Khatami went to the United States to speak at

BY ROBERT FISK  
Middle East Correspondent

the UN, to tell Iranian people to come back to invest, to promise them that in Iran everything is now done according to the law.

"Forouhar's murder was an attempt to show the world – and Iranians – that Iran is not safe."

Now the demonstration of lawlessness has gone beyond even my informant's worst nightmares. Mohamed Jafar Pouyandeh had been missing since last Wednesday and his body was found only on Sunday; the 45-year-old writer had apparently been strangled. Just four days earlier, another writer – Mohamed

Mokhtari – had been found on a garbage tip, also strangled. Forouhar, leader of the small opposition Iran Nation Party, and his wife Pavaneh were both stabbed to death in November. A third writer, Majid Sharif, also died last month, though relatives say he may have been the victim of a heart attack. But the Islamic Repub-

lic is clearly the victim of a very creepy series of assaults on the country's newly liberated intelligentsia. The sadism of the attacks is as frightening as the threat it obviously represents to President Mohamed Khatami who is perhaps the most popularly elected leader in the entire Middle East. Somebody wants to destroy

the civil society Mr Khatami proclaimed after his election last year and the usual suspects are being fingered.

The clerics who never accepted any deviation from Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's anti-western, theocratic regime – the current Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Akbar Khamenei, and his supporters – obviously come to mind.

Who was behind the trial of Tehran's progressive mayor, Gholamhussein Karbaschi – a Khatami ally – on dubious charges of corruption? Who organised the stone-throwing attack on a bus load of American tourists last month? The "Fedayin of Islam" who claimed responsibility was clearly a cover name. Who planned the assault on Atallah Mohadjeri, Mr Khatami's spokesman, who was pushed to the floor of a mosque after Friday prayers and beaten up?

Ahmed Rezaei, the young son of a senior Iranian official, said in the United States that Ayatollah Khamenei and his colleagues were planning a coup against President Khatami. But the Iranian security services have apparently not come to any conclusions.

True, Forouhar had "criticised Khamenei too much," as one Tehran businessman put it obliquely. Before her death, his wife Pavaneh had told the New York-based Human Rights Watch that the couple lived in fear of being murdered, adding that they thanked God each evening for granting them another day on earth.

But one Tehran daily newspaper – its owner none other than Mr Karbaschi, the city's deposed mayor – pointed out that the gruesome murders may be part of an outside attempt to set Iranians against the Revolutionary Guards and Ayatollah Khamenei.



Under pressure: President Khatami

"You must remember that the CIA pushed small groups in Italy to kill opposition people so as to sow suspicion," the Iranian security source said. "There are many people in the West who do not want our President to succeed, who would like him to fail so that Iran can be regarded again as a backward country full of what you call 'terrorists'." Some people in Washington don't want to see enlightenment in Iran.

The killings have come when Iran's democracy is beginning to take on a human and very real shape. A new reform party, the Islamic Iran Participation Front, has been founded to stand behind President Khatami's supporters in February's municipal elections – a poll with a million candidates for 250,000 seats which will give wide decentralised powers to town councils throughout Iran.

The founders of the new party include a vice-president, four ministers, seven deputy ministers, nine journalists, a poet, a film producer and two student union leaders. So broad is the spectrum of political debate that Iranians must read at least six newspapers to understand what is happening to their country.

Washington has taken Iran off the US list of countries that allegedly fail to fight the production and trafficking of drugs, though given Iran's ferocious series of executions of drug barons, this is not surprising.

President Khatami's approaches to the United States have been accompanied by new relations with the Gulf states. Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia attended a summit of Islamic nations in Tehran a year ago and now President Khatami has been invited to visit the kingdom by King Fahd.

Iran has meanwhile refused to be intimidated by American claims that it is developing weapons of mass destruction. And the Iranian defence minister, Ali Shamkhani, has warned that an Israeli attack on Syria – Iran's ally since the early Eighties – will be met by an Iranian military response.

"If there is an Israeli attack against Syria, we'll reply in a way which the Israelis cannot imagine," Admiral Shamkhani said in September, just after the Iranians showed for the first time their Shehab-3 missile, which, with a minimum range of 800 miles, could reach targets in Israel, Turkey, the Gulf or even parts of Russia.

Clearly, Iran still has enemies outside its borders who would be as pleased to see the collapse of President Khatami's "civil society" as his domestic opponents.

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IN THE TUESDAY REVIEW





Another defector, the East German soldier Hans Conrad Schumann, was immortalised in this 1961 photograph, leaping over the barbed-wire barricade that was to become the Berlin Wall to join his family in the West. AP

# Wall hero is now on trial in Berlin

IN THE simplistic mythology of the Cold War, East German border guards were the villains and those battling against them heroes. But yesterday this world was turned upside down when one such hero found himself in the dock for the murder of a guard shot in cold blood 36 years ago.

Rudolf Müller, a baker who in 1962 had brought his family to the West through a tunnel he dug under the wall, is believed to be the first West German to stand trial for a crime which until now was considered legitimate. It is another twist in this moral maze in which hundreds of East Germans have been convicted for carrying out orders to shoot refugees, whilst the Politburo members issuing those orders have mostly wriggled out of jail.

Mr Müller's case is all the more glaring because it illustrates how Cold Warriors on

BY IMRE KARACS  
in Bonn

both sides of the barbed wire manipulated people and events to suit their propaganda purposes. Mr Müller was allowed to dig his tunnel from the West Berlin basement of the rabidly anti-communist newspaper publishers Axel-Springer Verlag. Then, upon his triumphant return to West Berlin, the authorities adjusted the story of his escape, blaming the death of a 20-year-old East German private, named Reinhold Huhn, on a fellow guard.

According to the statement he gave to West Berlin police after his escape, Mr Müller crossed to the East on 18 June 1962 to bring his family to the building near Checkpoint Charlie where his tunnel led. They were stopped by the guard, who was armed with a machine gun. While the soldier was



Müller: Murder charge

searching his bag, Mr Müller claims to have knocked him down. Another border guard then allegedly opened fire, hitting his colleague accidentally. The East German version was quite different. They claimed Mr Müller reached into his breast pocket pretending to be fumbling for documents, pulled out a gun and

shot the guard at point-blank range without warning.

Pie Huhn was proclaimed a true-grit Communist hero, a street was named after him, and a plaque erected. Mr Müller meanwhile, was feted by the West for his daring raid.

Now, nine years after the fall of the wall, Berlin prosecutors believe the enemy might have had a point. Witnesses have come forward describing the event as a simple case of shoot-and-run, with Mr Müller, now 67, cast as the man who fired the fatal bullet. In the light of the new investigation, Mr Müller's first press conference in the West, before the final, radically different version, is construed as a confession. Asked by reporters how many times he had pulled the trigger, he had replied: "Once. The man fell down immediately."

The trial is expected to continue until late February.

## 100 words of the century – but no 'Nazis'

WHILE OTHER countries are still struggling to erect a fitting archway to the new century, Germany has completed its millennium project a year ahead of schedule. A jury of seven eminent persons from the German-speaking world yesterday unveiled their definitive list of the 100 most important words of the last 100 years.

From Aids to Wolkenkratzer – "skyscraper" – modernity is distilled on to a small sheet. Between now and 31 January 1999, more eminent German-speakers will pen riveting essays on each word, which will all be broadcast during the coming 12 months, and the printed versions will be bound in a nice leather volume. Beat that, Millennium Dome.

Well, maybe it can. One eminent female person in Berlin has already spotted one blatant omission – the list has "peace movement" but not "women's movement". Historians are also feeling a little let down.

Germans have been living in interesting times, so competition to get into the top 100 was fierce. "Führer" made it, as well as "Holocaust", "concentration camp", "deportation"

BY IMRE KARACS  
in Bonn

and "genocide". The Nazis did not merit an entry, even though the foreign concept of "fascism" got in. And whereas the "Third World" was deemed worthy of inclusion, "Third Reich" was not.

As befitting a century of wars, the list is weighed down by many military terms. "Panzer", "Molotov cocktail" and "U-boat" are the epoch-making words. "Luftkrieg" – aerial warfare – is there, but strangely, "Blitzkrieg" is not.

From the Anglo-Saxon world the German language acquired several treasures, including "design", "comics", "jeans" and "sex". From contemporary politics, it has gained almost nothing except "reunification". From industry, "Volkswagen" made it as the only trade-mark.

"Currency reform", the creation of the mighty Deutschmark 50 years ago, obviously had a deep enough impact to be included in the gallery of important words. But "monetary union", due to take place in two weeks' time, will have to fight its way into the top 100 in the coming century.

## Anwar's indignity of soiled bedding

IN THE LATEST bizarre development in the trial of Anwar Ibrahim, prosecutors will today exhibit a semen-stained mattress upon which the Malaysian opposition leader allegedly conducted an adulterous affair.

A senior officer from the Malaysian Criminal Investigation Department testified yesterday that a mattress and pillow had been removed from an apartment complex in Kuala Lumpur where Mr Anwar, then the country's deputy prime minister, is accused of having had sex with the wife of his former private secretary.

He has been charged with abusing his power as a minister to suppress allegations of adultery, as well as five counts of sodomy.

"On the mattress I found several patches believed to be seminal fluid," Musa Hassan, deputy director of the CID, told the court, to sniggers from the public gallery. He said laboratory tests were being conducted to determine the origins of the semen, though the results were not revealed yesterday.

Allegations about Mr Anwar's affair with his secretary's wife were first made public over the summer in a book entitled *Fifty Reasons Why Anwar Cannot Become Prime Minister*.

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

The book's author, who is himself being prosecuted for spreading "false news", claimed a daughter born to the woman was fathered by Anwar. But an earlier set of DNA tests appeared to have disproved that claim.

Ever since being sacked by Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad, on grounds of immorality, Mr Anwar has insisted that he is the victim of a political conspiracy.

Early on – in an attempt to prove Mr Anwar abused his power, the head of Malaysia's special branch told the court that police intimidate witnesses for political reasons.

Last week, the court heard lurid testimony from Mr Anwar's former chauffeur who described his employer's "animal" lust during their homosexual trysts; later, he apparently admitted that they never took place.

One of Mr Anwar's defence lawyers narrowly avoided going to jail, after the judge, Augustine Paul, found him guilty of contempt of court. Judge Paul made a similar warning yesterday after the chief defence lawyer, Christopher Fernando, alleged "a systematic campaign" against his client.

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IN THE TUESDAY REVIEW PAGE 5







An honour guard salutes China's national flag as he practises drills involving Beijing's daily ritual of raising and lowering the flag  
Natalie Behring/Reuters

# China grooms Hu, the next emperor

THE REST of the world will this week get its first real chance to see China's new emperor-in-waiting.

Hu Jintao, the man unofficially anointed to succeed President Jiang Zemin early next century, is scheduled to appear in his first significant diplomatic role when he represents China on Wednesday in informal talks with the Association of South-east Asian Countries (Asean) in Hanoi.

Who Hu? He is likely to be most people's response. Here is the man who is ear-marked to become the leader of the world's largest country, yet his name is virtually unknown outside China except, infamously, among Tibet-watchers.

He was the region's party secretary when, in March 1989, anti-Chinese demonstrations were violently crushed in Lhasa. Even within his own country, Mr Hu is a politician in need of an image, though the

BY TERESA POOLE  
in Peking

official biography tries hard to cast him as man in contact with the younger generation. "When he worked in the Communist Youth League Central Committee, he occasionally danced solo at parties," it reveals.

Given China's opaque political system, all that is clear is that Mr Hu is now the heir apparent. He was already the youngest member of the politburo's standing committee when, earlier this year, he was appointed vice-president.

The Asean meeting has been chosen as the springboard for a more high-profile role for Mr Hu on the world stage, part of the process of grooming him to take over from Mr Jiang as party chief in 2002, at the 16th Chinese Communist Party Congress.

As such he is designated to become the "core of the fourth



Hu Jintao: Jiang Zemin's 56-year-old heir AP

generation leadership". But what sort of a man is Mr Hu? Young, for sure, having reached his current position at the age of 56, long before many leaders have left the middle-ranks.

Professor David Shambaugh, at George Washington University, said little was known about what Mr Hu represented. "He has not had anything to do with the economy, he has not had anything to do with military affairs, he has not had anything to do with foreign policy. They are now trying, in making him vice-president, to get him to interact with foreigners more," he said.

Trained as an engineer, Mr Hu rose to prominence as head of the party's Youth League, and at 42 became the youngest provincial party secretary in the southern region of Guizhou.

From 1988-92, he held the top party post in Tibet, though he spent little time there because he reportedly could not cope with the altitude. Lhasa stands at 16,500ft above sea level. In 1992, he was catapulted on

to the politburo standing committee, party in recognition of his hardline tactics in Tibet.

According to the official biography, Mr Hu once said that "a good leader should be capable of taking resolute action at critical moments".

So far, Mr Hu has kept his political thoughts to himself, assiduously backing Mr Jiang's position in posts as president of the Party School and Party Central Committee.

In other words, Mr Hu is a classic Communist Party apparatchik, with no discernible patriarchal qualities.

Gerry Segal, a China expert at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, describes Mr Hu as a "swing voter" at a time when the entire Chinese leadership remains "dazed by the bonfire of the certainties that is ravaging East Asia".

The fact that Mr Jiang is following in the mould of Mao Tse-tung and Deng Xiaoping in trying to anoint his own successor shows a certain lack of vision about China's political culture. "To that extent, Hu is the natural successor to Jiang, but also a natural reason to worry about China's future," said Mr Segal.

Of course, heirs apparent in China know they have to watch their backs. Two of Deng Xiaoping's chosen successors, Hu Yaobang and Zhao Ziyang, fell by the wayside when it became politically desirable for their mentor to abandon them.

The ever-cautious Mr Hu must know that four years as an emperor-in-waiting is a long time in Chinese politics.

## Christmas snacks cost peanuts at Sainsbury's.

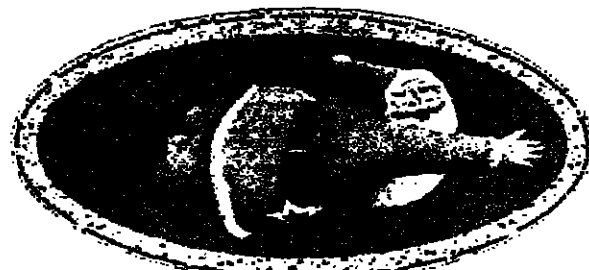


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3 for the price of 2

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## Hard times make hard men humble

### STREET LIFE

SAMOTECHNY LANE, MOSCOW

"TELEPHONE! IT'S for you, some guy called Dima." Costya, my husband, picked up the receiver and I heard him say to this Dima: "Look, I thought we had agreed you were going to leave me in peace for a few months."

Dima, I discovered, is the young sidekick of Uncle Boris, the mafia godfather who keeps Costya's rock and fashion business under his wing. I have known for some time that Costya, like every other Russian small businessman, has a *krysha* or roof of protection. That is how the system works here. Only recently, however, have I learnt more of the workings of Russia's ubiquitous protection rackets.

"OK, I'll see you on the Arbat," Costya told Dima on this occasion. When he returned from the meeting, I gleaned a fascinating little detail about the mafia's current affairs.

Since the economic crash, Russian businesses have not been able to afford to pay dues to the godfathers who, in the absence of effective police, offer a kind of security, which is also, of course, an illegal tax. In the autumn, Uncle Boris agreed with Costya that he could have a "tax holiday" until his business began to make profits again. However, it seems that Uncle Boris is now hard up himself.

"Dima took me to a café," said Costya. "He does not usually do that. He usually comes to my office to pick up the money for Uncle Boris. He was trying to be nice to me." Dima did not demand cash. Instead, he pleaded and told Costya a sob story. One of the "lads" had been injured in a shoot-out while protecting a business, he said. The gangster's treatment in hospital was costing \$200 (£120) a day. "Donations would be gratefully accepted."

"I refused," said Costya. "I'm broke. I told him: 'Listen mate, you can't get blood out of a stone.' Dima had no choice but to take this message back to Uncle Boris."

In the West, you may be bothered by unwanted insurance salesmen. In Russia, as soon as you have a visible shop window, you can expect a visit from the protection

racketeers, hinting darkly at the "risks" that you will be running if you do not accept their services.

The mafia gangs divide along ethnic lines but contrary to what Russian nationalists say - that only the nasty, swarthy Caucasians belong to these bands - there are plenty of ethnic Russian groups as well. A court in Geneva last week tried to prove that a certain Sergei Mikhailov led the mafia in the Sointsevskaia district of Moscow and laundered money in Switzerland but it was forced to acquit him for lack of evidence.

Costya, being a small fish, has a relatively minor godfather. Uncle Boris is an old criminal from a provincial Russian city. He is a "thief in law" or figure of authority among ex-labour camp inmates and enforces a moral code, which boils down to the tribal idea: "If you hurt one of mine, I hurt you".

At first, he charged Costya a modest \$300 per month for his insurance cover. But after Costya was held up at gunpoint by rival protection racketeers and Uncle Boris's intervention was required, the price went up to \$1,200.

"It was as if I had used up my no-claims bonus," joked Costya.

Every month, Dima, who wears a smart wool coat and heavy gold jewellery, would make the collection. About 150 other small businesses were also liable for this "tax", so you can work out how much profit Uncle Boris was making before the economic crisis.

He never made any overt threats. He did not need to. Costya knew that if he tried to manage without protection, some problem would inevitably arise, a bomb, say, in his storehouse, and he would have to admit that Uncle Boris was indispensable.

"It's blackmail. It's a burden," said Costya. "But what can I do?"

Indeed, as long as the mafia is the real power in the land, usurping the protecting and revenue-raising functions of the state, little people will be helpless. Helpless, but not necessarily mute. Which is why I have spoken about this.

HELEN WOMACK

### BRIEFING

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# BUSINESS

## Shell to cut \$2.5bn in costs and at least 4,000 more jobs

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

SHELL, the Anglo-Dutch oil giant, yesterday pledged to cut costs by \$2.5bn, shed nearly half of its chemicals business and examined the possibility of merging as part of a radical restructuring plan designed to restore its battered image with investors.

Mark Moody-Stuart, Shell's chairman, said the overhaul would result in an exceptional charge of \$4.5bn in the fourth quarter and at least another 4,000 job losses in addition to the 4,000 redundancies already announced from its worldwide workforce of 105,000.

But he said the impact on its UK workforce would be "limited" since it had already borne much of the pain with the 2,000 job losses and closure of its Shell Mex House headquarters earlier this year.

Details of the group's five-year revival plan were spelt out to analysts and fund managers in London and New York during a 90-minute conference that began with a blunt admission from Mr Moody-Stuart that Shell's reputation with investors was "on the line".

The response from the markets was muted with one analyst declaring that Shell still had "an acute credibility gap" and the shares drifting slightly lower.



Mark Moody-Stuart, Shell's chairman, said the revamp would cost another 4,000 jobs worldwide but the UK impact would be 'limited'



### BRIEFING

#### Tarmac and AI talks collapse

TALKS BETWEEN Tarmac and Aggregate Industries over a £1.8bn merger of their building materials operations collapsed at the last minute last night amid a bitter row between the companies' chief executives.

The negotiations over a no-premium merger to form the UK's largest construction group are understood to have foundered over the role of Sir Neville Simms, chief executive of Tarmac and chairman-designate of the combined group. AI's chief executive, Peter Tom, is thought to have rejected Sir Neville's appointment as co-chairman of a key committee charged with overseeing the integration of the two groups. Sources close to Tarmac said Mr Tom's change of mind was an attempt to take over the company without paying a premium.

#### Sears braced for bid from Green

SEARS, the struggling retail group, is braced for a takeover bid as speculation mounts (but Philip Green, the retail entrepreneur is preparing a £460m move this week).

Sir Bob Reid, the Sears chairman (pictured), said yesterday: "I think he'll probably have a go this week but we'll have to wait and see. It would be surprising if, after all this talk, there isn't something there. I'm expecting something during the course of the next few days."

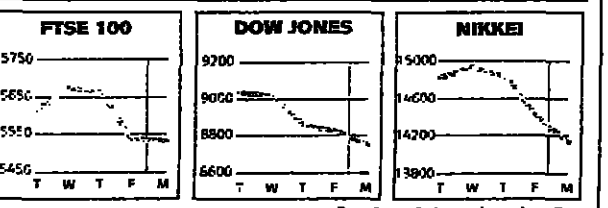
Sears confirmed that its advisers have been in touch with the Takeover Panel about pushing Mr Green to clarify his intentions. Sir Bob said he was concerned about being dragged into a negotiating process where the actual offer price bore little resemblance to the original headline figure. "I don't want someone coming in with a top-line figure, then after the due diligence process, making an offer of 25 per cent less."

Sears shares fell 14.5p to 267p yesterday as the group's largest shareholder, Phillips & Drew, reduced its holding to 23.85 per cent.

#### Antrim video plant under threat

UP TO 1,000 jobs in a video recorder factory in Northern Ireland are at risk, the South Korean group Daewoo warned. Daewoo said its plant in Antrim was threatened by economic restructuring by South Korea that might force Daewoo to sell its electronics interests to Samsung. This would almost certainly lead to the plant's closure as most of Samsung's electronics business was in Eastern Europe.

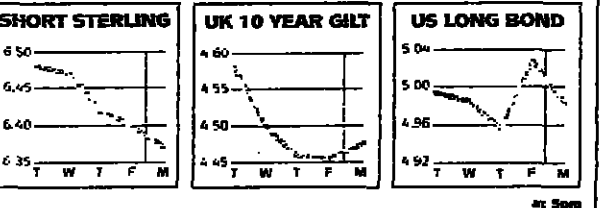
### STOCK MARKETS



### INDICES

Index	Close	Change	High	Low	Vol
FTSE 100	5534.30	-7.20	5537.20	5529.20	3.40
FTSE 250	4706.50	-30.40	4710.00	4690.00	4.31
FTSE 350	2620.90	-5.60	2621.00	2610.00	3.63
FTSE All Share	2530.81	-5.46	2532.00	2520.00	3.68
FTSE SmallCap	2007.80	-4.80	2009.00	1994.00	4.18
FTSE Fledgling	1120.70	-2.90	1121.00	1110.00	0.00
FTSE AIM	800.30	0.20	801.00	791.00	0.00
FTSE EBIK 100	913.87	-0.16	914.00	910.00	0.00
Dow Jones	9157.65	-1.30	9158.00	9140.00	1.71
Nikkei	14111.82	-294.02	14132.95	14075.00	1.04
Hang Seng	9825.21	-126.79	9842.16	9794.79	3.12
Dax	4522.86	-13.34	4527.83	4503.71	1.97

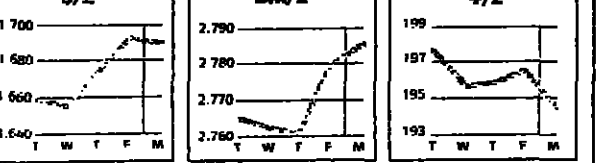
### INTEREST RATES



### MONEY MARKET RATES

Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	10 year	15 year	30 year
UK	6.36	-1.36	5.75	-2.06	4.47	-1.82
US	5.22	-0.69	4.98	-1.04	4.57	-0.98
Japan	0.47	-0.30	0.53	-0.19	1.43	-0.48
Germany	3.35	-0.41	3.21	-0.86	3.82	-1.47

### CURRENCIES



### FOUND

Index	Close	Change	High	Low	Vol
Dollar	1.6897	+0.0001	1.6897	1.6897	0.0078
D-Mark	2.7858	+1.240p	2.7843	2.7843	1.7897
Yen	194.49	-2.13	195.94	194.00	130.38
£ index	100.40	0.00	100.70	100.00	106.30

### DOLLAR

Index	Close	Change	High	Low	Vol
Dollar	0.9918	-0.0020	0.9918	0.9918	0.0078
D-Mark	1.6490	-0.0001	1.6490	1.6490	1.7897
Yen	115.06	-1.69	116.75	113.38	130.38
£ index	104.80	0.00	104.80	104.80	106.30

### OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Change	High	Low	Vol
Brent Oil (\$)	9.48	0.30	10.77	9.18	Dec
Gold (\$)	281.65	0.80	281.65	281.65	Dec
Silver (\$)	4.79	-0.05	5.78	4.74	Dec

### TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.6331	Mexico (nuevo peso)	15.26
Austria (schillings)	18.91	Netherlands (guilders)	3.0312
Belgium (francs)	55.56	New Zealand (\$)	3.1061
Canada (\$)	2.5304	Norway (krone)	12.55
Cyprus (pounds)	0.7953	Portugal (escudos)	274.68
Denmark (krone)	10.31	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.1464
Finland (markka)	8.2012	Singapore (\$)	2.6509
France (francs)	9.0288	Spain (pesetas)	228.85
Germany (marks)	2.7032	South Africa (rand)	9.6882
Greece (drachma)	452.30	Sweden (krone)	13.18
Hong Kong (\$)	12.67	Switzerland (francs)	2.1755
Ireland (pounds)	1.0821	Thailand (bahts)	55.36
India (rupees)	64.58	Turkey (liras)	495820
Israel (shekels)	6.4732	USA (\$)	1.6478
Italy (lira)	2676		
Japan (yen)	191.41		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.1467		
Malta (lira)	0.6110		

## Euro conversion weekend will 'run smoothly'

THE BANK OF ENGLAND and the Financial Services Authority issued a joint declaration yesterday that the "conversion weekend" over the New Year for the introduction of the euro on 1 January "will run smoothly".

For the past three years the Bank has been preparing for the gigantic task of converting all the City's systems to cope with the single European currency.

Yesterday it published the 10th edition of its quarterly paper "Practical Issues Arising from the Introduction of the Euro", the last before the conversion date.

The Bank declared that it had been testing and trialling conversion of cash transfer systems such as Chaps and Target since the summer and these trials had gone well.

But the Bank warned that some second-tier fund managers and stockbrokers have failed to respond to the Bank's proposals for euro bank and custodian account details. The issues paper includes the availability of public transport and car parking in the City over the conversion weekend. The Rotherhithe Tunnel will be closed, but parking in the City will be free of charge, and single yellow lines not enforced. Practical Issues has a circulation of 42,000 and is available on the Internet at <http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/pip.htm>.

John Townend, the Bank of England's director for Europe, has steered the City's preparation for the Euro. He said yesterday: "Even though the UK is not joining the single currency at the outset, the euro will still be widely used across the City's financial markets."

## Emap poised for \$1bn bid in first US deal

EMAP, the publishing group behind magazines such as *FHM*, *Elle* and *Smash Hits*, is poised to make its first move into the United States with a deal worth more than \$1bn.

Emap yesterday confirmed that it is in talks about making a recommended bid for The Petersen Companies, a Nasdaq-listed special-interest publisher whose magazine titles include *Guns & Ammo*, *Hot Rod* and *Skin Diver*. The acquisition would make Emap the world's leading magazine publishing group.

Shares in Petersen soared \$6.75 to \$30.25 on the news, valuing it at more than \$800m. The company is also carrying \$140m of long-term debt on its balance sheet.

Emap shares dropped 75p to 1050p on worries that the group was preparing a rights issue to help finance the acquisition. Analysts said the deal made strategic sense, although the price looked expensive.

Emap shares peaked at almost 1300p earlier this year, although they have since slipped back on worries that the economic slowdown would hit advertising revenues.

Shares in Petersen have risen steadily since it floated at a share price of \$17.50 in October 1997, although the company is not yet profitable. In the year to December 1997, Petersen reported a net loss of \$23.8m on revenues of \$239.7m.

Apart from its 80 magazine titles, Petersen also produces television programmes and runs trade shows.

Kevin Hand, who took over

as chief executive of Emap earlier this year, is keen to expand the company into overseas markets. He recently shook up the group's management structure in order to concentrate on international expansion.

Emap has been highly successful in the UK market, but competition concerns mean that the company has limited room to grow in its main consumer publishing interests.

Ownership limits have prevented Emap from expanding its radio interests, which include the Kiss FM dance station. Earlier this year the group was forced to sell its Red Dragon station in Cardiff when it bought Melody Radio from Hanson.

As a result, the group has been restricted to starting new titles such as *Red*, the women's magazine that was launched successfully earlier this year.

Emap has been exploring launching *FHM*, its highly successful lad's magazine, in the US. Although several publishers have offered to publish the magazine on a franchise basis, Emap wants to retain editorial control. The company is also planning to launch *Top Sante*, its health title, in other markets.

Analysts said the worry was whether Emap's balance sheet could stretch to finance such a large deal. Mr Hand said recently that the company, which has debts of £150m, could afford to pay £600m for an acquisition. However, Emap's dependence on advertising revenues means it would be highly exposed if the economy slowed down.

### AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

#### LONDON

BLUE CHIPS recovered most of an early fall with Footsie ending 7.2 points lower at 5,534.5.

The stock market was ruffled by worries about the Far East and another poor New York opening. General Electric Co's bid to join the European defence merger talks left its shares down 18p at 521p; British Aerospace was little changed at 501.25p. Railtrack advanced 130p to 1,531p on hopes it will play a significant role in the revamp of the London Underground.

Derek Pain, page 17

#### NEW YORK

STOCKS fell amid concerns that Congress will impeach US President Bill Clinton.

In early afternoon trading, the Dow Jones index had fallen by nearly 1 per cent to 8,760, while the Nasdaq had dropped 1.4 per cent to 2,000. Computer stocks led the declines, with shares in Microsoft, Intel and Yahoo! all losing more than 1 per cent.

Analysts said the choppy activity was likely to increase over the week as the vote on the impeachment draws nearer.

#### TOKYO

THE NIKKEI INDEX shed 2 per cent, to close at 14,110, as the Bank of Japan's key quarterly "tankan" business survey triggered worries about Japan's business outlook.

News that the Japanese government is to nationalise the troubled Nippon Credit Bank also weighed on sentiment. The losses were led by banks, as investors fear that more ailing lenders may fail. Industrial Bank, the last of the long-term credit banks, slid 5.5 per cent, while Yasuda Trust, a trust bank, slumped by 7 per cent.

#### HONG KONG

SHARES continued to struggle on concerns that the economy, which is going through its worst recession in 20 years, will slump even further.

By the close of trading, the benchmark Hang Seng index had fallen 1.3 per cent to 9,525. Hong Kong Telecommunications, the city's biggest phone company, fell nearly 3 per cent after the resignation of its chairman. Sun Hung Kai Properties, the city's largest developer, dropped 1.5 per cent.

#### FRANKFURT

GERMAN STOCKS pared early losses to rise for the first time in seven days, with many investors believing that the readjustment of the past week had been overdone.

By the close of trading, the benchmark DAX Index had gained 0.5 per cent to 4,563.

Viag, Germany's third-largest utility, gained more than 3 per cent on speculation that it might acquire a stake in Energie Baden-Wuerttemberg, the utility company based in the South-west of the country.



# The hunt for corporate superman



Dick Brown: shock departure highlights the lengthening list of chief executive vacancies



Jim Fife: EMI's non-executives vetoed the high-earning American's appointment



Martin Taylor: boardroom interference was a factor in his decision to leave Barclays



Andrew Teare: Shareholder pressure and a profit fall led to his departure from Rank

BY ROGER TRAPP

THE SHOCK departure of Dick Brown, Cable & Wireless chief executive, highlights an alarming gap at the top of UK plc.

Even before the announcement last week that Mr Brown was leaving to become chairman and chief executive of EDS, the Texas-based information technology company, headhunters were working overtime to fill a rare spate of chief executive vacancies. Barclays Bank, leisure group Rank, entertainment company EMI and the Anglo-Dutch publisher Reed-Elsevier are all - for a variety of reasons - also looking for chief executives.

Is this glut of openings just a coincidence? Or is it symptomatic of a shift in the way our biggest companies are run?

Observers are divided. Elisabeth Marx, a director of executive search consultancy Norman Broadbent International, maintains it is fairly normal for there to be a number of vacancies at this level, not least because of the difficulty of find-

**News Analysis: Headhunters are struggling to fill a growing list of chief executive vacancies. As the pressure for value intensifies, is too much being asked of the people at the top?**

ing the right person for an increasingly demanding job. "They are special people. There's only a small number to choose from," she says - a reference to the belief that today's chief exec must be a superhuman combination of master strategist, inspirational leader and powerful communicator.

Business schools are supposedly putting great effort into developing such skills, but the pool shows little sign of growing. This means that their scarcity value must be reflected in their pay. Research by Monks Partnership, the remuneration specialists, reveals that last year 20 company directors enjoyed earnings of more than £1m. As one consultant says, the pressure members of this "elite group" are under is compensated for by the fact that "if you succeed you do extremely well".

Many now detect a conspiracy to ratchet up pay through

an insistence on a broad range of skills and a conviction that growing internationalisation requires expertise typically possessed by already highly paid US executives such as Mr Brown. There is always an exception to prove the rule, and Sir Colin Southgate, the EMI chairman, failed in his bid to install Jim Fife, the high-earning American who headed EMI Music as chief executive, when the company's non-executive directors objected.

Nevertheless the headhunters and chief executives gain from the view that the solutions lie in other companies or even sectors rather than within - as with football clubs, where whenever a managerial vacancy arises the same list of candidates is circulated.

This is partly a development of the old British "gifted amateur" approach so prevalent in the Civil Service and elsewhere. But it also owes some-

thing to the conviction that modern business needs visionaries who are not blinkered by working for one organisation.

But, as Dr Marx points out, the chief executives of the most admired companies are more likely to stay with their companies, and to have the loyalty they regard as so vital in employees. Such companies tend to go in for well-managed succession planning, so that even if there is a shock departure, someone else can be eased in. Companies that appear rudderless when a chief executive leaves only reinforce the notion that they are run by single all-knowing god-like figures.

Nevertheless, chief executives are staying in position for less time than they used to. Research in the US shows that the tenure of chief executives is getting shorter, and anecdotal evidence suggests the same is true in Britain. This is partly because managers are rising to

the posts at a younger age and so are more inclined to move on. But it is also connected with a sea change in the length of time institutions allow executives to produce the goods.

Pressure from institutional shareholders is rising. Phillips & Drew, the fund management arm of UBS, was instrumental in the departure from retailer Sears of chief executive Liam Strong and has pressed for the break-up of the group. It has offered its views on various mergers, including the proposed link between BTR and Siebe.

Shareholder pressure was behind the departure in October of Andrew Teare from Rank. He was credited with focusing the company, but a profit fall of 20 per cent was enough to seal his fate.

Jerzy Wielechowski, P&D's head of corporate governance, said last week: "The timescale has shortened as the fund management industry has become more active."

A key tool in the activism shown by P&D and other fund managers has been "shareholder value", derived from the Economic Value Added concept developed by consultancy Stern Stewart. Phillips, the electronics group, Kodak, the photographic company, and glass maker Pilkington are among the most notable organisations that passed the baton from one chief executive to another in an effort to return to past glories.

But if the pressure to perform can be particularly acute in struggling organisations, it is never absent from successful ones. The modern business climate is so unforgiving that today's success can be tomorrow's business school case study in complacency.

And many in the City of London and beyond believe this is deterring some talented individuals from putting themselves forward. Put simply, even though the rewards may

be huge, there will be some highly competent people not prepared to put themselves forward for such positions.

This might be due to a concern to have a fuller, more balanced life, but it is also down to a growing realisation that achieving turnarounds is difficult, and not solely dependent upon the abilities of the individual assuming the chief executive role. It is thought this is why De La Rue took so long to find a new chief.

More emphasis is now put on the balance of boards. Although many chief executives crave the absolute power of their counterparts in the United States, there is also a growing belief in the need for other directors to share the responsibilities, simply because no one person can have all the required skills.

This is a tricky area: board interference is thought to have been an important factor in Martin Taylor's decision to leave Barclays. But unless companies find a way of negotiating round it, that list of vacancies will get longer.

## IN BRIEF

### Windfall shares go begging

UP TO 60,000 UK policyholders have failed to claim windfall shares worth an average of £900 each since the flotation of Colonial, the Australian insurer, in July last year. Colonial yesterday said shares worth a total of £56m were still waiting to be claimed. Customers, who must claim the windfalls before May 2002, can contact Colonial on 01634 848134.

### Heathrow blow

BAA is abandoning its plans to build a third runway at London-Heathrow after Roy Vndermeer QC, the inquiry inspector considering BAA's plans to build a fifth terminal at Heathrow, told the airports operator he is considering imposing a condition of no new runway. BAA will accept that in its submission to the inquiry in the new year. BAA's reported strong November traffic: it handled 8.1 million passengers at its UK airports, 7.1 per cent more than November 1997.

### Japan at a low

JAPAN'S business leaders believe conditions are worse than they have been for four-and-a-half years, according to the quarterly Tankan survey. This showed that 51 per cent believed conditions were worse than before. However, 48 per cent believed the position would improve by March, ahead of Japan's fiscal reform package.

### Wates mulls bid

WATES CITY, a small property company, "studying its options" after the collapse of merger talks with Greycoat. Wates, which has 2 per cent of Greycoat, was considering whether to mount a hostile bid for its rival.

### Esprit listing

ESPRIT, the Hong Kong-based fashion retailer, is seeking a secondary market listing in London and looking for a joint venture partner to open stores in the UK. Last year the company recorded pre-tax profits of HK\$346m on sales of HK\$5bn.

### announcement

THE LATEST TRANCHE of share sales by the Japanese government in NTT, the telecoms group, has been priced at ¥85,000, a 3 per cent discount to the NTT closing price. The offering of 1 million shares, valued at \$7.4bn (£4.5bn), was nearly three times subscribed. The sale cut the government's holding in NTT from 65 per cent to 58.2 per cent.

### Talk opts out

TALK RADIO will not take the option to buy a 10 per cent stake in Digital One, the UK's only commercial digital radio group, chief executive Kelvin MacKenzie said yesterday. Talk still plans to broadcast its all-talk station and a new sports service over Digital One, he said.

## Merck could upset AstraZeneca deal | Diamond sales plummet

ASTRAZENECA, the £48bn drug giant to be formed from the merger of Zeneca and the Swedish group Astra, could be forced to give up a large chunk of its profits to its US rival Merck, it emerged yesterday.

Under a distribution deal between Astra and Merck, the Anglo-Swedish group could lose a sizeable portion of its earnings in the US, the world's largest and fastest-growing pharmaceutical market, for the next 12 years.

News of the payment is a

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

blow for Astra and Zeneca and comes less than a week after they announced plans to merge to form the world's third largest drug company.

The Astra-Merck deal dates back to 1982, when the two companies formed a joint venture to market the Swedish company's drugs in the US.

The deal was renegotiated in July this year, when Astra won the right to buy out Merck's share of the joint venture in 2008.

The new deal stated that if Astra was to merge with a rival, it would have to pay Merck compensation of around \$5bn over the next 10 years.

However, according to the small print of the contract, Merck can refuse to be bought out and can continue to receive the stream of royalties from the sale of Astra's drugs in the US.

At present, Merck receives around 30 per cent of the joint venture's sales, estimated at around \$1.5bn.

If the American group decides to retain the joint venture, AstraZeneca would be forced to pay the royalties on all US sales of Astra drugs until 2010, the first date in which the joint venture can be terminated by the Swedes.

A Merck spokeswoman said that the company had not decided on whether to accept compensation or to carry on with the joint venture.

A spokeswoman for Zeneca said: "We have no cause of concern over this agreement."

DE BEERS, the diamond group, revealed the full impact of the Asian crisis on the diamond market yesterday when it said sales of uncut diamonds had plunged by 28 per cent in 1998.

Sales of rough diamonds at De Beers, which has a 70 per cent share of the world market, collapsed to \$3.345bn (£2bn) from \$4.640bn as demand slumped in the Far East.

The sales figures were the worst since 1987, prompting fears that De Beers would be forced to slash its dividend for

BY ANDREW VERITY

the full year by up to 30 per cent next March.

However, the company said that sales were holding up well in the United States and Europe, but this was too little to offset the lower sales in Japan, where demand for diamonds had crashed 20 per cent from 1997, and Hong Kong, where imports of polished stones fell by 40 per cent.

The Central Selling Organisation, the marketing arm of De Beers, has been stockpiling uncut gems in an effort to

restrict supply and boost the price for polished stones.

But analysts said prices in the key market - the US - were failing to respond. One analyst said De Beers could end up with a stockpile of rough diamonds worth around \$5bn.

Mark Cockle, editor of the independent trade magazine *Diamond International*, said: "These are the worst results for a decade: De Beers is hurting and the industry is hurting. The pressure will now be on the De Beers directors to make some hard choices."

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			Southampton
			Southampton/Eastleigh

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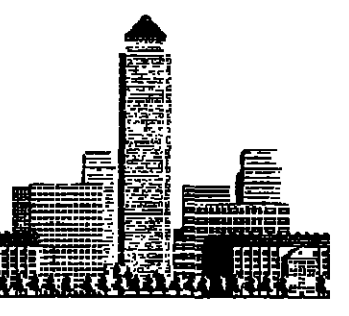
# A long way to go in Shell awakening

SHELL YESTERDAY rose to the challenge of its City critics and announced an ambitious new return on capital target which, at 14 per cent, is more than 50 per cent higher than that presently achieved.

Subject, that is, but not limited to, "price fluctuations, actual demand, currency fluctuations, drilling and production results, reserve estimates, loss of market, industry competition, environmental risks, physical risks, legislative, fiscal and regulatory developments, economic and financial market conditions in various countries and regions, political risks, project delay or advancement".

Phew! Might it not have been simpler to say "this is not a forecast"? There were so many caveats and letouts in yesterday's statement that it is no wonder the City felt a little uncertain about Shell's commitment to its new goals. But let's be charitable and assume this all to be the usual legalistic mumbo jumbo. Has Mark Moody Stuart, Shell's chairman, done enough to keep the wolves from his door?

By Shell's recent standards, the new target of a 14 per cent return on capital employed by the year after next is positively heroic, even though



## OUTLOOK

it doesn't compare favourably with the 17 per cent recorded by BP and Exxon last year. Shell is being perhaps a little optimistic in assuming a \$14-per-barrel oil price, given that at present the price is below \$10 a barrel. But to be fair, hardly anyone in the industry is banking on it remaining at this depressed level; this is a business where things can change rapidly. That, in any case, is what the industry is hoping for.

What of the rest of this package? Given the starting point, projected cost cuts of \$2.5bn per annum do not look particularly impressive set alongside the \$2bn BP has promised from its merger with Amoco and the \$2.9bn expected from the

Exxon/Mobil merger. Don't forget that Shell will still be larger than BP even after BP has merged with Amoco, so it ought to be doing better than this. BP will certainly better its promises, and so will Exxon. All of which suggests that the game will continue to move ahead of Shell. BP and Exxon will be drawing away as fast as Shell tries to catch up.

Shell has some terrific assets, but they have not been managed terribly well. It is a cliché to refer to the continuing problem of the company's national and other fields, but until someone tackles them, it is not clear that Shell is capable of sustained progress.

A persistence of the low oil price might eventually deliver the required shock to the system, and prompt more radical action. But it may well be that Shell needs an American-style chief executive, with sweeping semi-automatic powers, to bring about the required level of change. Shell's statement yesterday does little to address the central problem of the group's collegiate style of management.

Mr Moody Stuart may have gone as far as he can given the constraints under which he operates, but it all looks too reactive to do the trick.

### National Grid

WHEN THE first lemming leaps over the cliff edge it starts a trend but, as subsequent lemmings soon discover, it is not one that is worth following. Yesterday, National Grid followed the example of Scottish Power by stepping off terra firma and forking out a fancy premium for a US electricity business.

Not surprisingly, the Grid is keen to distance its takeover of New England Electric Supply from the frosty reception given to Scottish Power's acquisition of PacificCorp.

The blurb accompanying the deal waxed lyrical about the "excellent chemistry" between the respective managements and the "exciting prospects" that await the Grid in New England. Close your eyes and you could momentarily forget it is shelling out £2.7bn for a dull old, low growth electricity transmission and distribution business, albeit one that supplies the well-heeled folk who live off Cape Cod.

The PacificCorp deal did not have much to commend it but at least the Scots have bought a business which, as the estate agents would say, has room for improvement.

ScottishPower reckons it can shave \$200m a year off PacificCorp's cost base and still not bump up against the ceiling of its regulatory rate of return.

In the case of NEES, however, the Grid is buying one of the more efficient US utilities, which presumably means there is not much fat left to trim. Of course, there will still be cost savings to be had. The Grid was being coy about the precise scope yesterday for fear of giving the regulators an early sight of the target they have to aim at.

The Grid maintains NEES is a steal because it is in the vanguard of the move away from rate of return (profit capping) regulation to incentive-based regulation. This will allow retention of the efficiency savings for shareholders, rather than handing them back to customers, the Grid reckons.

But if the US regulators have learned anything from the British experience of this form of regulation, it is that the hurdles can safely be set very high before the pain becomes too much.

The codenames used to disguise the identities in this deal are instructive. The Grid was called Pillgrim and NEES was the Mayflower.

### Bids for Sears

ARE WE approaching the final denouement in the tangled affairs of Sears, Britain's perennial retail under-achiever? Phillip Green, Bankers Trust, an unnamed American venture capital group, Uncle Tom Cobleigh and all are reported to be sniffing around, so surely someone can be relied upon to do the decent thing and put the beleaguered stores company out of its misery.

Sears is certainly braced for a bid and there seem to be plenty of people lurking in the shadows waiting to pounce. But so far this has been more of a virtual bid situation - a takeover conducted by planted leak and innuendo - rather than the real thing. Nobody has yet put a proper bid on the table, less still formally announced one.

Despite this, the share price has been on the up and up since the story first developed. Shouldn't the Takeover Panel now intervene and ask the Stock Exchange to suspend share dealings until the bidders' real intentions become clearer? Unfortunately, share suspension is a double-edged sword; it prevents shareholders getting out, as well as gullible investors from going in.

Even so, a resolution is urgently required. Sears plainly expects Mr Green to make his move any day now. If he does manage to muster the money, it will be interesting to see how institutional shareholders react.

Mr Green has proved himself an excellent deal-maker; but each time he has bought from Sears, he has also royally legged the company over. Whatever Mr Green offers, Sears is certainly worth a lot more.

All the same, almost anything would be better than nothing, so dire has been the performance of the Sears share price. Phillips & Drew, Sears' largest shareholder, was hedging its bets yesterday by off-loading some of its stake. This demonstrates the urgency of the situation. Mr Green and others should put up or shut up.

## National Grid in US buying spree

NATIONAL GRID yesterday joined the takeover trail in the United States, paying £2.7bn for a New England-based electricity company and indicating that it planned further US acquisitions.

The deal follows last week's \$7bn takeover of PacificCorp by Scottish Power and is likely to be followed by further bolt-on acquisitions by National Grid worth up to £500m.

National Grid, the operator of the UK's high-voltage electricity transmission network, is paying £1.9bn cash for New England Electric System (NEES) - a 25 per cent premi-

um to last Friday's closing price - and assuming a further £800m of debt. NEES has 1.3 million customers in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Hampshire and operates both the transmission grid and distribution system in the region.

There is a poison pill clause in the agreement requiring either party to pay the other a \$100m penalty fee if they withdraw from the deal, which is expected to receive final regulatory clearance in early 2000.

David Jones, National Grid's

chief executive, said there was scope for cost-cutting at NEES but would not be drawn on how much it hoped to save or what the impact would be on the 3,200-strong workforce.

Since National Grid was privatised in 1990, it has halved its workforce - reducing the headcount by nearly 3,000 - and slashed costs by £220m.

But NEES is regarded as one of the more efficient US utilities, ranking 26th in the league table of 150 electricity suppliers based on costs per customer. National Grid said that the deal, which is being financed entirely from borrowings, would be

earnings enhancing from day one before taking into account a goodwill write-off of £1bn.

By year three it would be earnings enhancing after amortisation of goodwill of about £50m a year. NEES is profit capped like other US utilities and is allowed to earn a return on equity of 11 per cent in its distribution business and 10.25 per cent in transmission.

But the North-east region of the US is in the vanguard of moves towards incentive-based regulation, which would allow National Grid to retain more of the efficiency savings it achieves. At present, any profits NEES earns above and beyond its permitted rate of return are shared evenly between customers and shareholders.

Mr Jones said that NEES should move to an incentive-based regulatory system, where prices rather than profits are capped through an RPI-

X-style formula, as soon as 2000. Rick Sergel, chief executive of NEES, will remain in that role and will make around \$920,000 from his stake in the company. National Grid will send two senior directors over to New England to help run the business and push through the cost-cutting measures.

NEES recently sold its generation division - consisting of 4,000 megawatts of power plant - to Pacific Gas and Electric for \$1.6bn. It still has minority stakes in six nuclear power stations, three of which are operating. But Mr Sergel said the liabilities relating to these stations were largely covered under its regulatory formula. At worst, NEES' exposure was in the order of \$6m-\$7m.

National Grid said the plan to dispose of its £2.7bn stake in the telecoms operator Energis remained unchanged.

Outlook, page 15



Rick Sergel (left), chief executive officer of NEES, and David Jones, chief executive officer of National Grid, after agreeing the takeover yesterday

### Change to Interest Rates.

With effect from the start of business on 15th December 1998 the following Business Cheque, Deposit and Lending rates are applicable to the accounts set out below:

	OLD AER %	OLD GROSS %**	NEW AER %	NEW GROSS %**	NEW NET %***
<b>Business Investment Account - paid monthly</b>					
<i>30 day notice account</i>					
£250,000+	5.54	5.40	5.01	4.90	3.92
£100,000-249,999	5.48	5.35	4.96	4.85	3.88
£25,000-99,999	5.22	5.10	4.70	4.60	3.68
£10,000-24,999	4.70	4.60	4.18	4.10	3.28
£1-9,999	1.76	1.75	1.26	1.25	1.00
<b>Premier Interest Account - paid monthly</b>					
<i>14 day notice account</i>					
£250,000+	5.43	5.30	4.91	4.80	3.84
£100,000-249,999	5.22	5.10	4.70	4.60	3.68
£25,000-99,999	4.96	4.85	4.44	4.35	3.48
£10,000-24,999	4.54	4.45	4.02	3.95	3.16
£1-9,999	3.30	3.25	2.78	2.75	2.20
<b>Business Call Account - paid monthly</b>					
£250,000+	3.97	3.90	3.35	3.30	2.64
£50,000-249,999	3.76	3.70	3.14	3.10	2.48
£10,000-49,999	3.40	3.35	2.78	2.75	2.20
£1,000-9,999	3.09	3.05	2.48	2.45	1.96
£1-999	2.84	2.80	2.22	2.20	1.76
<b>Practice Call Account - paid quarterly</b>					
£1+	4.99	4.90	4.37	4.30	3.44
<b>Designated Clients Account - paid quarterly</b>					
£100,000+	4.99	4.90	4.37	4.30	3.44
£50,000-99,999	4.78	4.70	4.27	4.20	3.36
£10,000-49,999	4.52	4.45	4.01	3.95	3.16
£2,000-9,999	3.44	3.40	2.93	2.90	2.32
£1-1,999	1.61	1.60	1.10	1.10	0.88
<b>Schools Banking Account - paid quarterly</b>					
£1+	4.63	4.55	4.11	4.05	3.24
<b>Capital Reserve Account - paid quarterly</b>					
<i>7 day notice account</i>					
£250,000+	5.41	5.30	4.89	4.80	3.84
£100,000-249,999	5.20	5.10	4.68	4.60	3.68
£50,000-99,999	4.94	4.85	4.42	4.35	3.48
£10,000-49,999	4.52	4.45	4.01	3.95	3.16
£1-9,999	4.01	3.95	3.49	3.45	2.76
<b>Business Interest Cheque Account - paid quarterly</b>					
£250,000+	3.14	3.10	2.63	2.60	2.08
£100,000-249,999	2.68	2.65	2.17	2.15	1.72
£50,000-99,999	2.22	2.20	1.71	1.70	1.36
£10,000-49,999	1.86	1.85	1.36	1.35	1.08
£2,000-9,999	1.56	1.55	1.05	1.05	0.84
£1-1,999	1.31	1.30	0.80	0.80	0.64
<b>BICA for Charities - paid quarterly</b>					
£1+	3.14	3.10	2.63	2.60	2.08
<b>Flexible Business Loan</b>					
Standard					11.88
Special					9.72
Preferential					9.24
<b>Business Overdraft</b>					
Managed A					11.52
Managed B					10.44
Managed C					9.36
Managed D					8.88

**TSB**

Interest rates may vary from time to time. All rates are per annum except where stated. \*\*AER stands for Annual Equivalent Rate and is the notional rate which illustrates the gross or the net rate as if paid and compounded on an annual basis. As every account for a savings product will be able to compare more easily with other accounts, the AER is the most useful rate to use. \*\*\*NET - The rate of interest which would be payable after allowing for the deduction of income tax at the rate specified by law. These products are not subject to new customers. For charities with turnover under £100,000 per year, 11% for charities with turnover above £100,000 per year. TSB Bank plc, 111 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS. TSB Bank plc, Henry Duncan House, 120 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4LH.

## Record drop in factory prices

BY ANDREW VERTY

A RECORD fall in prices at the factory gate triggered fresh economic gloom yesterday, raising pressure on the Monetary Policy Committee to cut interest rates again next month.

Core output prices for manufactured goods fell by 0.5 per cent in the year to November, the biggest drop since records began in 1958.

Economists said the figures showed there was little inflationary pressure at the start of the chain and undermined the risk of deflation in manufacturing.

"Given the inflation and output data we have seen, I would not be surprised to see at least a 50 basis point cut in January," said James Stewart, economist at Weaving Capital.

Jonathan Loyne, UK economist at HSBC Group, said: "You are seeing deflation working its way along the inflation pipeline. I suspect you will soon see inflation at the retail level falling as well."

Manufacturers paid 8.5 per cent less for raw materials than a year earlier, largely due to the collapse in oil prices. Crude oil, which fell in price by 9 per cent in November, costs 41 per cent less than a year ago.

Some economists said the fall in prices was worrying for manufacturers, who were struggling to stay competitive amid a falling order. Many are increasingly forced to rely on cheap raw materials to maintain their margins.

The price data brought market jitters, with the FTSE 100 initially falling 74 points. It recovered to close at 5,534.5, down 7.2 points on the day.

Separate figures, however, showed record levels of inward investment. Foreign firms stepped up new direct investment by a record £21.8bn last year, up £6.1bn on 1996 and the highest rise ever, according to the Office for National Statistics.

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**THE INDEPENDENT**  
Tuesday 15 December 1998

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## SPORT

## 'Henry's vision makes Wales worthy Five Nations bet

ENGLAND ARE 5-4 on for the Five Nations' Championship, France 6-4, Wales 8-1 and both Scotland and Ireland 40-1. To a certain extent these odds reflect the supposedly more open nature of the competition in 1999. In recent seasons at least one of the Celtic nations would have been at 66-1 or even longer odds.

England are still poor value, as they usually are, presumably because the bookmakers take account both of the money which has already been (as they like to say) invested and of the money which they anticipate will be. France are surely the cautious man's (or woman's) bet, while Wales are worth a flutter.

My native land are, for once, entering the competition with a rea-

sonably settled team, for which the new coach, Graham Henry, can take credit whatever happens in 1999. There are problems on the left wing, but then, for no reason I can see, that position has always presented difficulties in Wales. Henry has also to acquire a loose-head prop of international class.

I read somewhere the other day that what Wales needs is a new front row. This is more than a little unfair to the abilities of David Young at tight-head and of Jonathan Humphreys, Barrie Williams and Garin Jenkins as hookers. All of them could go - some have already gone - on a Lions trip without disgracing the party. I blame Cardiff for preferring Andrew Lewis at loose-head and shunting Lyndon Mustoe between the two prop po-

sitions. Mustoe has, like many players, suffered for his versatility.

Henry has put together a good back row - Colin Charvis, Scott Quinnell and Martyn Williams have long been available - and unpicked the lock problem by calling up Craig Quinnell, as I had been urging for some time, and moving Chris Wyatt from No 8, as the England coach, Clive Woodward, has done with Tim Rodber.

Though there has been much gloomy talk of Woodward's problems, despite the win over South Africa, he is in reality in much the same happy position as Henry. The difference is that, whereas Henry has reached it through a combination of an acute rugby intelligence with ordinary common sense, Woodward has a profusion of good-



ALAN WATKINS

ish players at his disposal and four outstanding performers in Jeremy Guscott, Martin Johnson, Lawrence Dallaglio and Neil Back.

Woodward will presumably stick with Matt Perry at full-back. As I wrote last week, his only genuine

problem is at outside-half. The most interesting news of the week was that Joel Stransky was keen to play for England in the World Cup. But Woodward has said that he would not pick him. In any case Stransky is not qualified 'til September 1999. A correspondent points out that last week I erred about his age: he was born on 6 January 1967, which makes him 31, not 34. Apologies all round.

There is one other matter on which I would like to comment. The International Rugby Board is meeting in Dublin this week. One item on the agenda is the English clubs' challenge to the Rugby Football Union in the European Court. The IRB seems to believe that the RFU could and should have prevented this move by the clubs - that it has

been lax in maintaining good order and rugby discipline in England.

One of the board's luminaries is Vernon Pugh. He is a former pupil of my old school, the Amman Valley Grammar School, Ammanford. He is also a QC. I should have expected him to advise the IRB to follow a more prudent course.

Admittedly there is no compulsion on any person or organisation to assert what is claimed to be a legal right in the courts. It does not follow from this that a third party is entitled to try to dissuade the aggrieved person or organisation from asserting that right. On the contrary: the House of Lords has held that such an attempt at dissuasion can constitute a contempt of court and is punishable accordingly.

What is involved here - what the

international board wishes, even requires, the RFU to do - amounts to considerably more than an attempt at dissuasion such as would be made by a newspaper, say, in urging a rich plaintiff not to pursue a poor defendant. The board is asking the RFU to use its coercive powers to restrain the clubs from going to law, as they are legally entitled to do.

Certainly they are going to law in Europe rather than in the High Court in London. But under the European Communities Act 1972, European law is not only part of United Kingdom law but, in cases of conflict, supersedes it.

It is hard not to conclude that the IRB is urging the RFU to commit a contempt of court and, in so doing, is itself guilty of contempt.

## Dorigo returns to hit the spot

A former England full-back who lost his way in Italy has put his career back on track with a move to Derby. By Ian Stafford

HALFTIME IN the away team's dressing-room at the City Ground, Nottingham. Jim Smith, the venerable Derby County manager, is addressing his troops. Glancing at Tony Dorigo, he asks his newly acquired wing-back to take on penalty duties for the second half.

"Sure, no problem," the experienced, former England international replied. Then the memories came flooding back. The last penalty Dorigo had taken, in a shoot-out during last May's promotion play-off between Torino and Perugia, resulted in a miss, indeed the only miss in the whole competi-

A stunned Torino, the so-called sleeping giants of Italian football, were sentenced to yet another season in Serie B.

"Moments after agreeing to take a penalty I wondered if the boss knew I'd missed with my last effort," Dorigo admits, as we sit in the Derby training ground pavilion drinking tea. "I thought I'd better not tell him."

As fate would have it, Derby were awarded a spot-kick after the break. Dorigo, the personification of calm, stepped forward and slotted home his penalty kick to help his team to a draw. "Funny enough, as I went to place the ball on the spot, I felt remarkably relaxed about it. I think that's because, although I was disappointed about the Torino miss, I wasn't emotionally scarred."

But it must have been awful at the time. Even thinking about it makes you want to curl up and die, Torino, languishing in the large and dark shadow of their city neighbours, Juventus, had cured their shock of

relegation two years ago with the assumption that they would bounce straight back up to Serie A.

Yet they finished an unimpressive fourth, above Perugia but only on goal difference. Italian rules dictated that the two sides had to fight it out in a one-off play-off match to decide which of them gained promotion. Torino were down to 10 men after just six minutes, but fought their way back to a 1-1 draw after extra time. At 3-3 in the penalty competition, Dorigo stepped forward and watched in horror as his shot crashed against the inside of the post and rolled across the goal.

"Torino would have made £20m if they'd gone up," he says, with a rueful smile on his face. "I reckon I couldn't have been more than an inch away from scoring."

Instead, Perugia won 5-4. "I was the only player to miss a penalty."

What was the reaction like to him after this? "Not bad, actually," Dorigo says. "I was all over the front pages of the sporting newspapers and television in Italy, but the players were very understanding, and I was voted the team's player of the year. It wasn't very nice to have missed. It hurt. But I didn't see Torino's failure to get promoted as my fault."

The result, though, changed Dorigo's circumstances. On a two-year contract, the former Aston Villa, Chelsea and Leeds defender had joined the Italians from Elland Road on the Bosman ruling for the start of the 1997-8 season. "I always wanted to play in Italy, especially as my father's Italian, and I knew Torino



Tony Dorigo, a seasoned professional with a high-quality pedigree, believes he has much to offer a Derby County team with many foreign players

Peter Jay

were a big club. The plan was to play in Serie B for a season, and then enjoy the likes of Juventus, Milan and Inter the next after Torino's promotion."

As Dorigo does not need reminding, this failed to materialise. Suddenly he and his club had a problem. "Torino were paying their players Serie A wages. They could do this for a season, but not for two. Although they wanted me to stay, they offered me a 50 per cent pay cut."

"Playing in Italy was a great education for me, both as a current player, and for someone who plans to turn to coaching and management. I had learnt the language and, at the age of 32, can finally speak to my father in Italian. And the kids (Dorigo has three) were coming along well. But I couldn't afford to stay, and I didn't feel Torino's offer was right."

What made matters worse was that the Italians only got round to

mentioning their reduced offer to Dorigo at the end of July, a time when most English Premiership clubs had completed their summer shopping for the new season. "I spent August flying backwards and forwards to Turin, packing up my house, and training by myself," he explains. "Torino definitely left me in a hole when they couldn't honour their contract."

In truth, Dorigo's task became difficult as soon as his manager, Graeme Souness, was shown the door after just six games of the season.

"Graeme was definitely one of the reasons why I joined in the first place," he admits. "He had tried to sign me for Rangers when I was at Chelsea, and we got along well. But Graeme's problem was that I was the only player he was allowed to sign. The rest, all 15 of them, had been presented to Souness. We

were expected to win every game. Looking back, he didn't really stand much of a chance."

Derby had already shown an interest in the English export at the back end of last season.

"Like an idiot, I told them I was happy at Torino. How did I know I was then going to miss the penalty that condemned us to another season in a lower league?" Jim Smith, though, was persistent. After a short trial, which Dorigo passed with flying colours, and a handful of Premiership matches in which he impressed, he duly signed a two-year deal on 19 November.

Perhaps the only surprise in all this is how... Dorigo has slotted back into Premiership football. At 32 he is hardly drawing on his pension yet, but after a long injury at Leeds, and his last cap gained during the infamous World Cup qualifying defeat in Rotterdam over four years

ago, there might have been a feeling within the game that Dorigo's shelf life was fast running out.

"I'd understand that," he concedes. "I think my 10-month absence through injury, and my season in Italy had made me a forgotten man. People may not remember that I was part of the League championship-winning team at Leeds, or that I won 15 caps and figured in the 1988 and 1992 European Championship, and 1990 World Cup squads."

"The problem was that Stuart Pearce was always above me in the pecking order. The timing of my injury didn't help either. It was a basic hamstring injury in my left leg, but it was misdiagnosed, and I kept on coming back too early. But I haven't changed as a player."

"I think what helps me at Derby is that I'm English, in a team of many foreign players, and I'm experienced.

The game suits me more now, too. Wing-backs seem to be in favour, and that's a system that allows a player like me more of a chance to shine."

All in all, his decision to leave his native Australia at the age of 16 and sign as an apprentice with Villa has turned out to be a good one, give or take the odd hiccup. Despite 15 English caps to his Italian surname, Dorigo still sees himself as an Aussie first.

"When it comes to football, then it's England," he insists as he makes his way out to the car park. "In the current Ashes series, though, it's no contest. Australia always gets the nod over the Poms."

And what if he is asked to take another penalty for Derby, this time in a cup final, or a play-off match? Dorigo laughs, and for the first time all morning, sounds like an antipodean. "No worries, mate," he says, and ambles off.

## Dream away the long winter nights in this fantasy world

WHEN THE *World Atlas of Golf* was first published in 1976, Tom Scott in *Golf Illustrated* gave it the sort of review a publisher would kill for at this time of year. "A book," Scott wrote, "you would love to give to your oldest and dearest golfing friend and one which you yourself would like to receive as a present."

Scott went on: "It succeeds brilliantly and the result of the combined efforts of all concerned is a book which far exceeds anything of the kind which has ever been attempted before and which therefore is a golf collector's dream."

The revised and updated edition (Hamlyn, £25) published this autumn cannot, quite obviously, live up to the whole of that tribute but it is still a magnificent tome and would be welcomed by any golfer even if he or she already possessed the

original. Like a good round of golf - where all parts of a player's game come together and are complemented by fine weather, good company and a well-stocked 19th - the combined efforts of all those involved in the new edition of the *World Atlas of Golf* make it the ideal antidote to the long winter nights as playing gives way to fantasy golf.

The subtitle is "The Greatest Courses and How to Play Them", something you can do from your armchair. The superb photography, stylish illustrations and course guides bring each of the exotic venues to life, but it is the quality of the writing that does most to stir the imagination.

The publishers of the original edition found the perfect fourball for their enterprise. Pat Ward-Thomas, Herb Warren Wind and Charles

Price are giants of the pantheon of golf writers while Peter Thomson, the five-times Open winner, belongs to the pantheon of champion golfers. It was the task of Derek Lawrenson to update their prose and he has brought it off far better than when many modern golf course architects are hired to revise an old masterpiece.

Lawrenson has left alone much of the main text but overhauled many of the accompaniments that illustrated some of the great holes and their place in the history of the great championships. Modern technology has not only led to many changes to old courses but to how they are played. The perfect example is the 11th at Augusta National. Once played by Ben Hogan with a drive and a four-iron deliberately short right of the green,

## BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

Today: Golf

Tiger Woods could shoot straight for the flag with a sand wedge while winning the 1997 Masters.

Some 70 courses are covered in great detail and another 110 are featured with short notes in the *Gazetteer*. Lawrenson has left the choice of courses largely as it was, a comment on the quality of new tournament venues in the last 25 years although Muirfield Village is unlucky not to be promoted to the main section. Two that have been are Ballybunion and Royal Troon

while three new additions are The Belfry, soon to stage its fourth Ryder Cup in 2001, Loch Lomond and Valderrama.

Reflections on the great courses and great players and more are featured in *Dobereiner on Golf*, and more (edited by Robert Green and Ruth Dobereiner, Aurum Press, £12.95). Peter Dobereiner may have passed away two years ago but his words live on. This collection may have all been published previously, mainly in the *Observer*, *Golf World* or *Golf Digest*, but are no less welcome for all that.

The "and more" in the title refers to scripts written for TV3, the *Have I Got News for You* of its day, which only goes to emphasise that whether Dobereiner was writing about golf or other matters, his principal aim was to raise a laugh.

Some of Dobereiner's best lines - such as "the best way to build a golf course is to start 200 years ago" - are featured in *The Quotable Golfer* (edited by Robert Windeler, Running Press, £9.99).

Much wit and wisdom is contained between the covers. Jack Nicklaus-designed courses, according to David Feherty, "are like those hot-air hand dryers in toilets. They are a great idea and everybody uses them once but not again. They take too long."

The combustible Tommy Bolt had this to say when asked for a golfing tip: "Never break your putter and your driver in the same round or you're dead." But George Archer seems to have got the wrong end of the stick: "If it wasn't for golf, I'd probably be a caddie today."

Finally, for the millionaire in

your life who has everything, there is *The Golfer and the Millionaire* (by Mark Fisher, Cassell, £5.99). From the same author of *The Instant Millionaire*, *How to Think like a Millionaire* and *The New Art of Loving*, this is a self-improvement book subtitled "... it's about having the balls to succeed."

This is exactly the sort of book that Peter Dobereiner was thinking of when he wrote that "used properly, a book is all you need to become a champion."

"What you do is balance it on the top of your head and then swing a club as hard as you can. Once you have mastered the art of taking a full, vicious swing without dislodging the book, you can play golf. If you should succumb to the temptation of reading it, then all is lost."

Andy Farrell











Third Test: Folly of picking one man as captain, wicketkeeper and key batsman ruthlessly exposed

# Stewart in spin as England unravel

TO MOST, it might seem like an elementary mistake, but England have been trying to beat Australia by breaking long-held mathematical theory. Alec Stewart is the guinea pig in question as England's selectors try to prove that three goes into one cleanly and without compromise.

On the evidence of this Ashes tour, it patently does not and Stewart's failure to bat at No 4, as England battled to save the third Test, was a tacit admission that his tripartite role as captain, wicketkeeper and top-order batsman, has become a burden too great.

Stewart, who eventually came in at No 6, albeit after the night-watchman, Dean Headley, had been dismissed in the penultimate over of the fourth day's play, has not scored anything like his usual quota of Test runs this series.

It is a shortfall that has gone some way to ensuring that England's totals have been less than competitive. In turn, his "follow me lads" style of captaincy, which relies almost exclusively on leading by example, has also suffered.

It is difficult to captain when worries about your own form keep nagging away, and at times England's on-field cricket has lacked Test match intensity. Remember, it was Michael Atherton's lack of form, rather than England's performances, that persuaded him to resign the captaincy in the West Indies last March.

Predictably, England were playing the matter down and David Lloyd, the team coach, insisted that Stewart had simply dropped down the order to have a little bit longer to recover from keeping wicket.

"It's been a cumulative thing," said Lloyd. "The incredible heat on the first day has caught up with everyone and dropping down one gave Alec a bit more breathing space after the demands of keeping wicket."

On the face of it, this appears to be a reasonable explanation, though it also sounds like the thin end of the wedge, especially as Australia only batted until 20 minutes after lunch. Cricket is a game played largely in the mind, though, and the Australians viewed his non-appearance quite differently. "We definitely saw it as a psychological point to us when Mark Ramprakash came in at four," said Michael Slater, who had earlier scored his 10th Test century. "It's good for us when we see a guy, who has been batting four all series, not coming out to bat."

By DEREK PRINGLE  
in Adelaide

Australia 391 & 278-5 dec  
England 227 & 122-4

For Stewart, the juggling of three roles has become something of a vicious circle. Never at his best starting against spin, Stewart is finding that by batting in the middle-order, he is facing spinners the moment he comes to the crease.

Australia do their homework well and he has fallen to spin three times in his last five innings, and that includes Perth where the slow bowlers barely got an outing. Indeed it was in the first innings there, where he scored a breezy 38, that Stewart last looked his old self.

Playing Australia is challenging enough without having three high profile jobs demanding an increasing amount of effort. Stewart best serves England when he opens the innings, which means that either keeping or the captaincy, perhaps both, must go.

Stewart has never showed great tactical astuteness as a captain and there have been times when watching England—as when Ramprakash bowled a long aimless spell on Sunday—has been like watching a county floundering in mid-table.

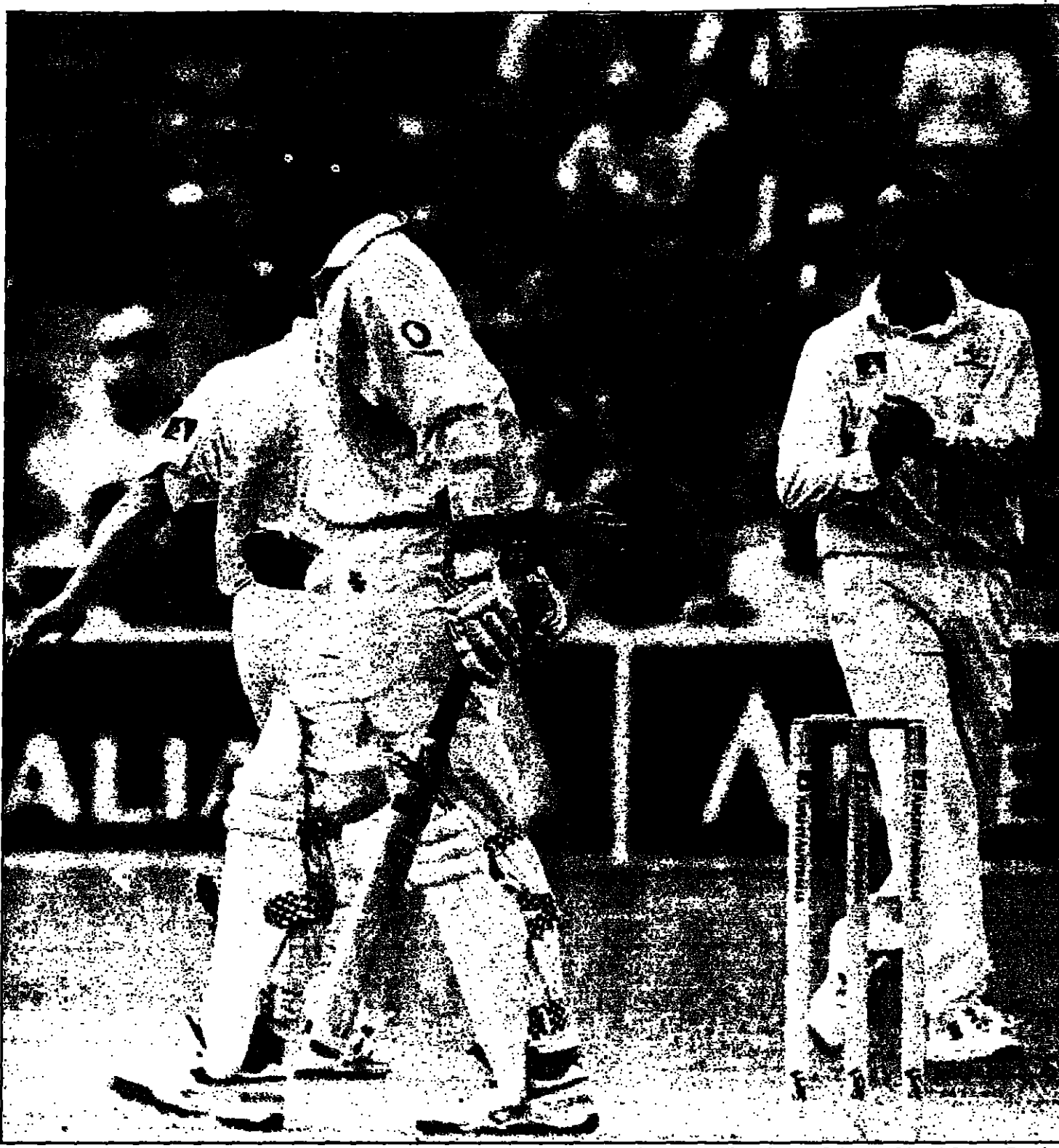
Of course Australia, even without Shane Warne, are a truly great side, and opponents generally find themselves under intense pressure, particularly as the end of the game approaches.

That was certainly been the case in Adelaide when Slater and Justin Langer resumed their partnership on the fourth morning. By his own admission Slater had been struggling the previous day. Apparently, the pitch, apart from taking spin, was also becoming more variable in bounce and scoring runs quickly has not been easy.

That said, Slater appeared to have no problems dispatching the first two balls of the day, from Darren Gough, to the boundary. Gough eventually got his revenge, pyrrhic though it was, with a corking inswinging yorker to the instep.

Slater clearly enjoys playing against England and this was his sixth century against them in just 14 Tests. Mind you Langer, with his second significant score of the match appears to as well, and he added 52 before holing out to Peter Such, as he tried to force the pace.

The proportion of blows that greeted Mark Waugh in the second in-



England's Michael Atherton, out for five, begins the long walk back to the pavilion as Colin Miller celebrates his wicket. Empics

nings, definitely dwindled since his appearance on the first day. Back to his silky best, they had disappeared altogether by the time he reached his 50. But if that was a relief, the knowledge that he and Warne have both received summonses to attend the match-fixing inquiry in Lahore, is sure to have taken the gloss off things.

Mark Taylor is a cagey old soul, and he delayed his declaration until 2.19pm, when Australia were 442 runs ahead, a total of no particular significance other than being 126 runs in excess of the highest-ever winning fourth innings score to have been made here.

Taylor does not like to declare during a break, as he feels opponents, particularly the opening batsmen, can prepare better. Instead he prefers to keep them on edge, uncertain when the moment to pad up will come. If it sounds like kidology, his record proves otherwise, and the openers, Atherton in particular, never looked comfortable, as England began their bid to survive the nine hours and 10 minutes of the match remaining.

With more the odd ball keeping low from the pacemen, it was Mark Butcher, edging a cut shot in the 13th over, who was first to go. According to the players, this pitch is the kind where if you get one wicket, you can easily pick up two or three.

As if to prove the point, Atherton followed in the next over, popping up a simple catch to Mark Waugh at silly point as Colin Miller suddenly got the ball to bounce. Normally a good technician with the softest of hands against spin, the steepness of the bounce clearly surprised Atherton, who jabbed it off the splice to Waugh.

At that juncture it should have been Stewart, though with Miller on, it was not imprudent that Ramprakash came out to join Nasser Hussain. The pair have so far been England's best batsmen and when they were together in the first innings, adding their hundred partnership, England at least looked as if they were competing.

The same was also true in the second innings, when, despite the pressure, they were able to nullify Stuart MacGill spinning the ball vast distances.

Perhaps because of the threat posed by MacGill—he is 10 times the bowler who sent down all those full tosses three weeks ago in the first innings at the Gabba—Hussain took his eye off Miller.

Aftering his attack from the Northern End to around the wicket, Miller ran one past Hussain's outside edge before turning a quicker one into his pads. It did not spin much, just enough to ensure that Hussain, who has had a spate of poor decisions in recent months, could have no qualms other than to wonder why he missed it.

With five minutes of play remaining, Stewart sent in Headley as nightwatchman. Off the mark with an edge for two off the fourth ball, Headley should really have stayed at the other end to protect Ramprakash from MacGill.

As it was, he came back to face Miller, who promptly had him caught by Mark Waugh at silly point off pad and glove. It was at that point, with England on 122 for 4, that Stewart came in, his role not so much defined by the selectors, as by the mountain in front of him.

## SCOREBOARD

Fourth day: Australia won toss

AUSTRALIA—First innings 391 (J Langer 179no, S R Waugh 59, M A Taylor 59; D W Headley 4-97)

ENGLAND—First innings 227 (M Hussain 88no, M R Ramprakash 61; S C G MacGill 4-53)

AUSTRALIA—Second innings (Overnight: 150-1)

M J Slater lbw b Gough ..... 103

276 min, 191 balls, 8 fours, 1 six

J Langer c sub (B C Hollis) b Such 52

227 min, 183 balls, 2 fours

M E Waugh not out ..... 51

126 min, 84 balls, 5 fours

S R Waugh c Hick b Headley ..... 7

21 min, 22 balls

R T Ponting b Gough ..... 10

42 min, 28 balls, 1 four

N A Healy not out ..... 7

20 min, 13 balls

Extras (lb1, w1, nb5) ..... 19

Total (for 5 dec, 409 min, 98 overs) ..... 278

Fall: 1-54 (Taylor), 2-188 (Slater), 3-216 (Langer), 4-230 (S Waugh), 5-265 (Ponting)

Bowling: Gough 22-2-75-2 (5-2-14-0-0-0-14-0-0-29-1-5-0-15-1), Mullaney 16-6-18-0 (7-3-0-0-1-5-0-2-6-0), Headley 18-1-78-1 (nb5) (8-1-33-0-3-0-0-0-0-0-36-1), Such 25-6-56-2 (w1) (8-1-14-1-6-2-7-0-2-0-1-1-0-13-2-34-1), Ramprakash 12-1-27-0 (11-1-0-10-0-25-0-1-0-2-0), Hick 1-0-1-0-0

Progress: Third day: 50: 77 min, 18.3 overs. Test 75-1 (Slater 30, Langer 7) 30 overs. Restart delayed after tea until 4.12pm. 160: 166 min, 43.1 overs, 150: 242 min, 59.4 overs. Close 150-1 (Slater 74, Langer 34) 60 overs. Fourth day: 200: 293 min, 72.4 overs, 250: 357 min, 88.2 overs. Lunch 258-4 (M Waugh 35, Ponting 8) 88 overs. Declaration at 2.19pm. Slater 50: 179 min, 124 balls, 3 fours, 1 six; 272 min, 184 balls, 8 fours, 1 six; Langer 50: 224 min, 181 balls, 2 fours. M Waugh 50: 115 min, 75 balls, 5 fours

ENGLAND—Second innings

M A Butcher c Healy b Fleming ..... 19

50 min, 39 balls

M A Atherton c M Waugh b Miller ..... 5

57 min, 43 balls

M Hussain lbw b Miller ..... 41

137 min, 97 balls, 4 fours

M R Ramprakash not out ..... 43

134 min, 128 balls, 2 fours

D W Headley c M Waugh b Miller ..... 2

3 min, 4 balls

A J Stewart not out ..... 0

4 min, 0 balls

Extras (lb3, nb4, nb5) ..... 12

Total (for 4, 192 min, 51 overs) ..... 122

Fall: 1-27 (Butcher), 2-31 (Atherton), 3-120 (Hussain), 4-122 (Ponting)

Bowling: MacGill 10-0-22-0 (nb5) (6-0-12-0-4-0-10-0), Fleming 14-2-40-1 (nb1) (5-0-13-0-3-0-1-6-2-15-0), Miller 13-1-36-3 (8-1-21-1-5-0-15-2), MacGill 12-6-14-0 (4-0-0-0-7-3-0-1-1-0-0), S Waugh 2-1-3-0 (one spell)

Progress: Fourth day: Test 47-2 (Hussain 11, Ramprakash 7) 18 overs, 50: 75 min, 18.5 overs, 160: 161 min, 43.2 overs. Umpires: S A Bucknor and S J Davis. TV replaying umpire: P M Angley. Match referee: J R Reid.

## England face tough task in Hobart

THE MOST informative and, for England, perhaps the most chilling event on this fourth day in Adelaide, was the release of the names to represent an Australian XI against England just before Christmas in Hobart. It is a side which would have the better of the current England team in a Test match and perfectly illustrates the strength of Australian cricket.

Greg Blewett and Matthew Elliott both made significant contributions to Australia's success in England in 1997. Michael Bevan, Stuart Law and Darren Lehmann, who seems to be the favourite to become Australia's next long-term captain, have all made a considerable impact for their country and in county cricket as well.

Mike Kasprowicz, Paul Reiffel, Gavin Robertson and Brendon Julian have all played Test cricket. The only two who have not are Adam Gilchrist, who has been kept out un-



HENRY BLOFELD  
IN ADELAIDE

derstandably enough by Ian Healy, and Cory Richards, the highly promising New South Wales batsman. They are all battle-hardened cricketers trained in the most demanding of cricketing environments.

Places in the Australian side are highly sought after and most jeal-

ously guarded. Those who have had a taste of life under the baggy green cap and have then dropped out, work desperately hard to get back, not least because of the financial rewards that come with it.

The players who go to Hobart are playing their hearts out in each round of Sheffield Shield matches. The batsmen constantly pile up runs knowing that failure will count against them in their endless struggle to fight their way back.

The bowlers think likewise, and it makes certain that Shield cricket remains the most testing and successful of breeding grounds. Australia's back-up cricketers are hungry for success and every innings is a significant opportunity which must not be wasted.

There are six teams in the Sheffield Shield and the players come into their State sides through the Grade or District cricket in each state. In their minds, State

cricket is only the stepping stone on the way to Test cricket.

The counties in England have just taken a huge step by voting for two divisions from the year 2000. The danger is that it will be allowed to become a step sideways rather than a step forwards. The will to succeed has to be there; county cricket in its new guise must not be allowed to establish a comfort level for mediocrity.

The danger is there because the clubs in the lower division are to receive as big a share in the annual financial handout from the England Cricket Board as those in the top division. This will establish a comfort level and may blunt the incentive for both the clubs and the individuals to better themselves.

This presumably was done to help the less successful counties agree to support the two-tier system when it came to the recent vote at the First-Class Forum. But the principal idea behind the two divisions

is first to concentrate excellence in the top division and then to stimulate players in the lower division to do all they can to lift themselves up the ladder.

At first, there are apparently not going to be significant changes to the registration rule to prevent an out-and-out transfer system coming into operation. But if the object really is to produce a more competitive England side, a proper transfer system would only help.

The second division, giving three counties the chance of promotion each year, would then also be acting as a feeder league to the top division. The counties have agreed to start on the process of change, but the Australian example shows that there are more steps to be taken before England is going to be able to produce tough and hardened cricketers who are good enough to play the cricket which will one day see the return of the Ashes.

## Sobers leads attack on 'irresponsible' West Indies

CRACKS HAVE been evident in the make-up of West Indies cricket for sometime. Last weekend they became gaping canyons.

Humiliated inside three days by South Africa in the second Test in Port Elizabeth, West Indies are already 2-0 down in the five-match series and reaping the wrath of their countrymen at home. What will have stung the players even more were harsh words from two of the West Indies former greats who watched the sorry capitulation in Port Elizabeth.

Colin Croft, once a member of West Indies' feared four-pronged

fast bowling attack alongside Andy Roberts, Joel Garner and Michael Holding, did not mince his words. "This was as disgraceful a performance by a Test team as I have ever seen," he said.

Sir Garfield Sobers, the greatest player West Indies have ever produced, was equally curt. "They must remember that playing for West Indies is a privilege, not a right. Test cricket is all about accepting responsibility and this team is not doing that."

Only the ageing fast bowlers Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh escape condemnation but they have

been unable to compensate for the inadequacies of the others. Even the captain, Brian Lara, holder of world records for the highest Test and first-class scores, is failing to live up to his immense talent. As West Indies collapsed ignominiously for 141 in their second innings at Port Elizabeth, Lara top-scored with 39 from 49 balls but it was a mere cameo from a man who only recently was hailed as the greatest batsman in the world.

And Lara admits it himself. "You can't tell me that the Brian Lara of four years ago, or Carl Hooper, or Shiv-

narine Chanderpaul—reliable people," he said. He refused to blame the pitch. "The West Indies team of the mid-Eighties, [Gordon] Greenidge and [Desmond] Haynes up front would have scored 500 on it. It was fine."

The second Test between Pakistan and Zimbabwe ended in a draw after fog prevented play on the final day in Lahore. "It's a big relief, but we would have liked to have had some cricket," said the Zimbabwe captain, Alistair Campbell, after the umpires called off play because of poor visibility following four inspections.

The Pakistan captain, Moin Khan, was disappointed at being denied a chance to level the series in which Zimbabwe are one up after a seven-wicket win in the first Test at Faisalabad. The third and final Test starts at Faisalabad on Thursday.

In all 223 overs and 13 hours play were lost over the five days because of bad light and fog. On the fourth day Zimbabwe were 48 without loss in their second innings, trailing Pakistan by 94 runs, when bad light stopped play. Pakistan had declared their first innings on 325 for 9 in reply to Zimbabwe's 183. "We are really disappointed that weather destroyed our

efforts to win here," said Moin. There are fears that there will be similar visibility problems for the final Test.

Worcestershire's former England bowler Phil Newport is to take up a career in teaching. The 36-year-old paceman will follow his former captain Tim Curtis on to the staff at Worcester Royal Grammar School from next autumn.

Newport, who has taken more than 800 first-class wickets, will teach geography as well as coaching the school's cricket team. He said: "This opportunity has come at the perfect time."

## Woodward cool on Stransky's eligibility

RUGBY UNION

BY TERRY COOPER

CLIVE WOODWARD looks to have snubbed moves by South African Joel Stransky to make himself available for England—he becomes eligible from next September three years after his Springbok career ended. Stransky, who landed the historic drop-kick to win the World Cup for South Africa in 1995, last played Test the following August. He qualifies through his grandparents.

However, the Leicester stand-off looks set to be disappointed. England coach Woodward said: "If I was asked whether I would choose him for World Cup 1998, the answer is basically no. I would have to be very desperate to do so and I would choose him only with the greatest reluctance and with huge reservations. If I had to, it would be a very sad day for English rugby."

"But I would never say never to anything. There might actually come a time when there are no English stand-offs playing in the Premiership and then my hand might be forced, but I prefer to pick only English-qualified players who have not appeared for another country. You can't compare Joel's case with Mike Catt. Mike was not a pro rugby player when he came here. He qualified through parents and above all had not been capped by South Africa."

"We have more rugby players than any other country in the world and if we can't find stand-offs—or any other positions—with our own qualified players in the normal way then it will be a bad day for our game. Once we started going down the Stransky road we would easily find the English national team filled with older players who have finished Test careers in their own country and served the necessary qualification."

Stransky said: "Until I became aware of the regulations I had some faint glimmer of hope that I might be recalled by South Africa. But in reality they are not going to pick me. I still have to check whether my grandparents really were English. I have to give the whole matter a lot of thought. It is a moral decision. I am South African, but the fact is I don't intend going back there in the foreseeable future."

Alan Watkins, page 19

## Westwood anticipates fiery Tiger in Boston

GOLF

LEE WESTWOOD yesterday said he expects to see Tiger Woods breathing fire at next September's Ryder Cup. Westwood, receiving Europe's Golfer of the Year award, believes America's crushing Presidents Cup defeat in Australia this weekend will make them twice as determined to win back the Ryder Cup.

"I'm already looking forward to it immensely," said the 25-year-old from Worplesdon, celebrating a season during which he won seven times and picked up prize money in excess of £1.6m. "They are going to be keen to stick it to us. They got a bit of a trouncing. There's nothing to compare with the Ryder Cup and I can't imagine what it will be like in Boston. There'll be thousands of Irish there for a start."

Never previously beaten by the International side—the Rest of the World minus Europe—the Americans were demolished 20-11 in Melbourne. Now Westwood would like to see Europe take on Greg Norman, Ernie Els and company. "I think there's room for it and I don't think it would devalue the Ryder Cup," he said. "It's always nice to test yourself against the best and we don't have much match play."

Westwood has signed a three-year deal with clothing company Lyle and Scott. Without revealing figures, the chief executive, Robert Kimpton, said the contract was the biggest in the company's history. It could well be worth seven figures if Westwood starts winning majors. "His fearless determination and charming personality have been the perfect attributes for us," said Kimpton. "He was an inspired choice when we signed him up four years ago and we look forward to him realising all his ambitions."

Among Westwood's targets for 1999 is Woods' world No 1 spot—and he would like to thank the 22-year-old Californian for already helping him into the top 10.

"Tiger's arrival on the scene a couple of years ago gave me a kick up the backside. I knew we had to work hard otherwise he'd get away from us. I don't think I'm quite at his level yet, but all the time I'm learning and maturing."







## SPORT

HAPPY RETURN FOR DORIGO P19 • BAD DAY FOR ELWAY'S BRONCOS P21

Vieira's  
£20,000  
fine for  
V-sign

THE ARSENAL midfielder Patrick Vieira was cleared of assaulting a police officer by a Football Association disciplinary commission yesterday but must pay a £20,000 fine – equalling the record handed out by the FA – for a V-sign he made towards Sheffield Wednesday fans at the end of the Premiership match, won 1-0 by the Owls, at Hillsborough on 26 September.

The Arsenal manager, Arsène Wenger, was an eyewitness to the alleged tunnel bust-up between Vieira and South Yorkshire police officer Jim Tunc and admitted after the hearing that he had feared the weight of police evidence – three officers including Tunc attended the commission in Birmingham – would count against his 22-year-old French World Cup winner.

Wenger said: "I must admit I feared the case might have gone against Patrick and the club because it is not often you get three officers giving evidence in such a case. It's the first time I've seen that in 30 years in football. The evidence of the police is always strong and you will have to ask them why they decided to pursue this case."

"I am surprised the police came here and said what they did today because if there had been real evidence I would have expected a criminal case to have been brought against Patrick – not a footballing case."

When asked about the validity of the police evidence, Wenger said: "I would say the police were sincere but there was no aggressive behaviour from Patrick towards the police. I am not in the position to make

## FOOTBALL

BY JOHN CURTIS

any statement about justice in England. You can see that this was footballing justice."

Vieira's fine is the equivalent of around one and a half weeks' wages and equals the punishment given to Vinnie Jones for his narration of the Soccer's Hard Men video in November 1992.

An FA spokesman, Steve Double, said: "Patrick Vieira was today found guilty of misconduct following an incident at the end of the Sheffield Wednesday-Arsenal match in September. An FA commission heard police evidence that the player made a two-fingered gesture to the crowd at the end of the match."

"It is also said an officer who tried to usher Patrick Vieira down the players' tunnel was pushed in the chest, causing him to stumble across the tunnel. Vieira admitted to the commission that he had made a V-sign in response to racial abuse from the crowd. As he went down the tunnel he felt himself grabbed from behind by an unknown assailant. He said he had broken free without realising it was a police officer."

"The commission heard supporting evidence from club officials, including Arsène Wenger. The commission ruled that Vieira was guilty of misconduct in relation to the gesture to the crowd but not guilty in relation to any alleged assault against the police officer."

"Vieira has apologised to the commission over his conduct and has been reminded of his responsibilities as a footballer."



Patrick Vieira, the Arsenal midfielder, conveys news of the verdict after yesterday's FA disciplinary hearing in Birmingham

Vieira was also ordered to pay part of the costs of the three and a half hour hearing and warned as to his future conduct.

In a statement, Superintendent John Donnelly, of South Yorkshire police, said: "We have always said we would be happy with whatever the FA decided about Vieira's conduct."

"The incident in the tunnel involved one of our officers and

we felt that the FA should take it into consideration when looking at the serious allegations about his behaviour."

"My officers are there to help, to prevent violence and trouble. Players need to know this as well as the fans."

Donnelly reiterated that the police would not be bringing any criminal prosecution against Vieira over the tunnel incident.

## PAYING THE PRICE: TOP FINES IN THE NINETIES

<b>£20,000</b> Patrick Vieira (Arsenal) December 1998: For making offensive gestures to fans during a 1-0 league defeat at Hillsborough.	<b>£15,000</b> Ian Wright (Arsenal) July 1997: For remarks he made to a referee at Blackburn Rovers and for gestures he made to the crowd at Coventry City.	<b>£10,000</b> (suspended for two years) Hans Segers & Bruce Grobbelaar December 1997: Also given suspended six-month ban for breaking FA rules for betting on matches.
<b>£20,000</b> Vinnie Jones (Wimbledon) November 1992: Also given a six-month playing ban (suspended for three years) for narrating Soccer's Hard Men video, which gave advice on how to fool players without the referees' noticing.	<b>£10,000</b> Paolo Di Canio (Sheff Wed) November 1998: Also given 11-game suspension for pushing the referee Paul Alcock to the ground during stormy Premiership clash with Arsenal.	<b>£10,000</b> Faustino Asprilla (Newcastle) April 1996: Also banned for one match after elbowing/busting Manchester City's Keith Curle at Wembley Road.

Warne and Waugh  
ordered to inquiry

THE AUSTRALIAN Cricket Board has received a summons from a Pakistan judge asking for Shane Warne and Mark Waugh to appear before a betting and match-fixing inquiry.

"We've received it and we've told the players we've received it, but we won't discuss it at any length until they've finished their matches," ACB spokesman Patrick Keane said yesterday. Waugh is playing for Australia in the third Ashes test against England, which ends today.

Warne, still recovering from the effects of shoulder surgery, captained his Victoria state side in a domestic four-day Sheffield Shield match which ended in a draw against Queensland at the Melbourne Cricket Ground yesterday.

The two admitted last week that they had taken money from a bookmaker to provide pitch and weather information during Australia's 1994 tour of Sri Lanka and Pakistan. The pair were secretly fined by the ACB in early 1995 but the incident was not revealed until last week.

A spokesman for the Pakistan Cricket Board said that Justice Malik Mohammad Qayyum had issued a summons directing Waugh and Warne to appear before the inquiry on 19 December.

In October, during Australia's last tour of Pakistan, Waugh testified that former national captain Salim Malik had offered him a bribe during Australia's 1994 sub-continent tour.

CRICKET  
BY LAWRENCE PRESCOTT

Malik has denied the allegations, and says the recent admissions by the two Australians prove his innocence. The judge leading the inquiry said Waugh's credibility had been damaged by his admission.

Waugh and Warne are both scheduled to play in a Sheffield Shield match in Sydney starting on 19 December and Warne has not travelled to Pakistan since the 1994 tour. Warne declined an earlier request to appear before the inquiry.

The pair both strongly denied being involved in match-fixing or bribery. Warne said yesterday that he would decide in the next 48 hours, in conjunction with the ACB, whether or not to go to Pakistan.

He said his version of events would not differ from what he had said four years ago and rejected any suggestion the fact that he and Waugh had received money from a bookmaker would taint their credibility as witnesses. "Nothing has changed. The same thing still happened," he said of the Malik affair.

"Yes, Mark and I were involved with a bookmaker but nothing has changed between what happened between Salim Malik, myself, Mark Waugh and Tim May. He still offered us money to throw a game and we said 'No'."

Warne said the past week had been difficult and, in hind-

sight, it might have been better had the ACB not withheld the information four years ago.

He said he was determined not to let the controversy get the better of him. "I've still got a smile," Warne said after Victoria's match yesterday. "There is a lot of talk going around but so what, there is always going to be rumour and innuendo."

"I'm still the same person I have been for 29 years and people that are close to me still know what sort of person I am. But in these sorts of situations I suppose you work out who your real friends are, who aren't and who is on your side and who isn't."

Meanwhile, world cricket's governing body is to launch an inquiry into a wave of damaging match-fixing and betting allegations.

International Cricket Council president, Jagmohan Dalmiya, said the situation had reached a point where the ICC could no longer sit on the fence and ignore the effects of the claims.

"Unfortunately the very fabric of the great game is being damaged due to the charges of match fixing or betting brought by the players," said Dalmiya. Dalmiya said: "It is time for the ICC to step in as these allegations are spreading like a wild infection. If anybody is found guilty then stringent action should be taken."

He added that the ICC would act in a decisive manner and not allow the issue to be swept under the carpet.

Viduka  
received  
'torrent  
of abuse'

CROATIA ZAGREB claimed yesterday that they had still not received the £3m Celtic agreed to pay for the striker Marko Viduka. And the club insisted that if the money is not forthcoming in the next 10 days they will turn to world football's governing body, Fifa, and its European counterpart, Uefa, for guidance.

Viduka is now resting at home in Australia following his walk-out from Parkhead without playing a match. He said at a news conference yesterday that he was an emotional wreck after receiving a torrent of abuse from Zagreb's supporters.

Zagreb's spokesman Goran Bradic said: "The transfer fee was due last Thursday but we are prepared to wait another 10 days if necessary. If we do not receive the money by then we will have to turn to Fifa's and Uefa's lawyers to see what we can do."

Viduka insists he will return to Parkhead but claimed he had been unable to shop or eat out in Zagreb after being abused in the street. Bradic said: "Marko is a good guy, polite and honest, but maybe in some games for us he didn't try so hard. Once you get on the bad list of our fans it is almost impossible to win back their support."

"Our supporters are cruel. They don't think about people's emotions. For the past two years they have been taunting our president that he is a homosexual. They shout about your mother and your wife. But it's not all our supporters who act like this, maybe 5,000 out of 40,000. But if you are a public person who is highly paid then perhaps you have to put on a brave face."

Viduka walked out on Celtic nine days ago on the eve of his debut against Hearts in Tynecastle. He said: "I thought that once I had escaped to a new country with similar values to Australia that I would be able to once again excel at the game I live for and love. But that wasn't the case. So I decided to come back home – to recover, get my strength back – and then return to the only game I have ever wanted to play."

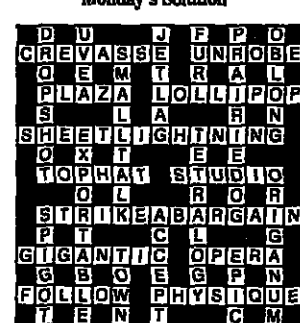
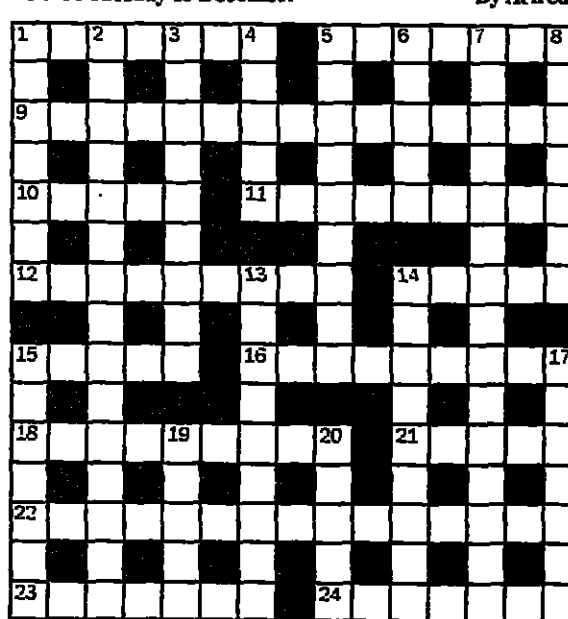
With the Premier League closing down on 3 January for three weeks, Viduka is unlikely to feature in Celtic's plans until February.

## THE TUESDAY CROSSWORD

No.3794 Tuesday 15 December

By Aired

Monday's Solution



## ACROSS

- 1 Taking two pennies in change and a note (7)
- 5 Encouragement to get energy (3,4)
- 9 Far from quick comparison hammered home? (4,2,1,3)
- 10 Part of poem retained by African toddler (5)
- 11 Made opening for brainy types (9)
- 12 Lays bells out – that's three (9)
- 14 A time spent in the Strand in a fitting way (6)
- 15 Old time artist wants more (5)
- 16 Fellow's rewritten a history of a shrub (9)
- 18 ESP centre's thrown out 5 shams (9)

## DOWN

- 21 Son played round, for example, with musical sign (5)
- 22 Programme of half-truths? (4,11)
- 23 After that time sappers will be genuine (7)
- 24 Playwright born Indian (7)
- 1 Old volumes depicting fish and desserts (7)
- 2 Detective, perhaps, is not a natty male dresser? (5,7,3)
- 3 Perhaps gancee in Roma comes up beside one (9)
- 4 Service in top car model takes hard work (5)
- 5 Declare gold chair must be given to this one (9)

- 6 Leave car to get a warm coat (5)
- 7 Not naturally opposed to whisky? (7,3,5)
- 8 Remove liquid of spilt drink, about a litre, at end of day (4,3)
- 13 Sentence Ring, say, to process ending in the next generation (4,5)
- 14 A bottomless pit in one advanced country (9)
- 15 Takes photos of old models (7)
- 17 A Colonel yet to organise a faithful follower (7)
- 19 Man and woman embracing daughter (5)
- 20 They house some country's emissaries (5)

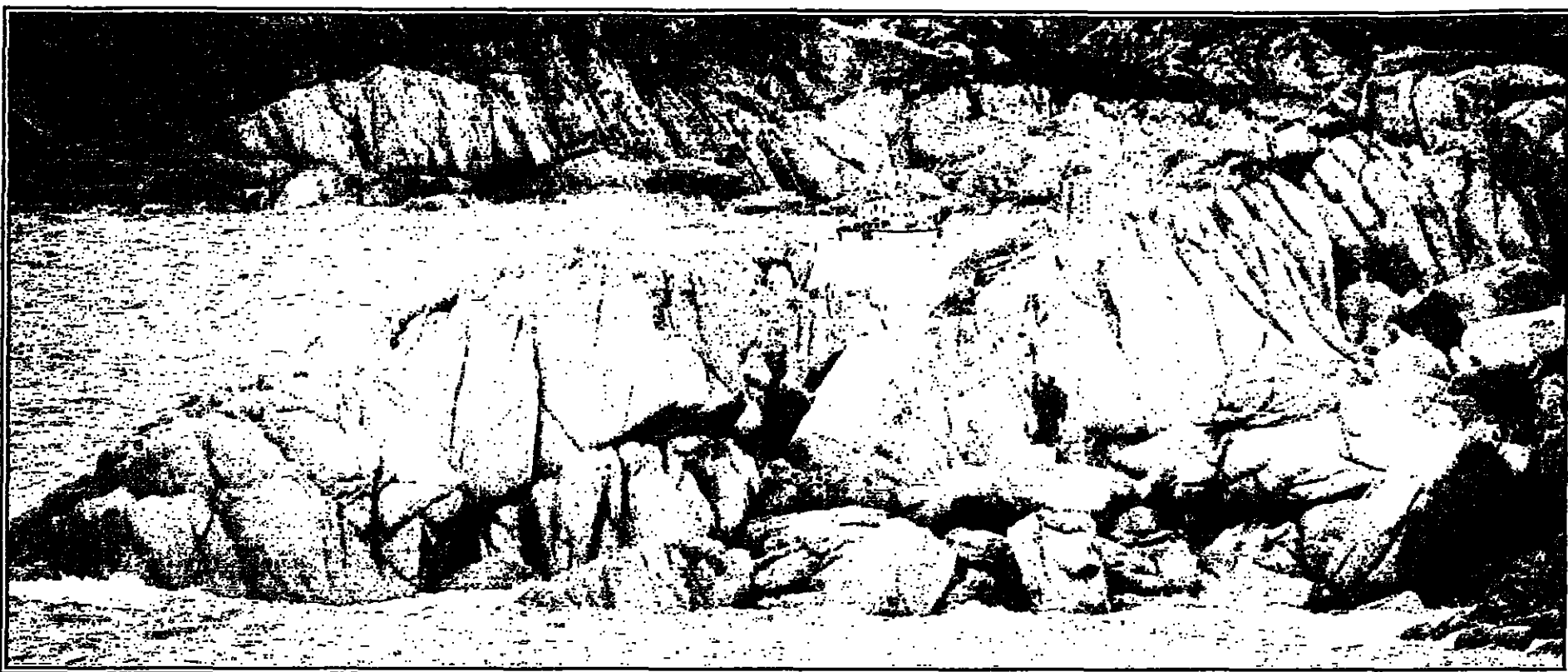
السنة الأولى



# TUESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

## The lost sons of Iona



Brian Fair

Hay, Kirkpatrick, Dougal, MacFadyen  
'They were as much a part of the island  
as the very rocks themselves'

I can see the red boats dancing over the Sound of Iona. I can see the seagulls prancing over the sound of Iona (a traditional song). As a freelance journalist who spent most of his childhood holidays on the Hebridean island of Iona, it was inevitable that I would be up on Sunday morning. The grotesque news had begun to filter through about the loss of the four young men who had drowned the night before, while returning to the island from a dance on the neighbouring island of Mull.

At first I found it almost impossible to speak. As a child, my abiding passion had been a wooden dinghy almost identical to the one in which the men had been travelling when it overturned, and I knew every inch of that sea journey which they had been making. Worse still, I knew the families that they were all anxious to get home to.

I too have been to the dances in the village of Bunessan and returned after them across the Sound of Iona in the moonlight. I too had seen the phosphorescence explode from the boughs of my dingy as it crunched through the waves, as they would have done. I too have heard running waves heaving unexpectedly out of the darkness, as they would have done, felt those waves lift the boat, as they would have done, and bailed the salty spray from the bilges. Though not with as much passion as they would have done.

Such moments have been among the most exhilarating of my life, and I can remember throwing my head back and yelling at the stars at the glory of it all. It was, so they tell me, a starlit night when they died.

Two days after the accident I feel I must write something, because wherever I have been today I have heard mutterings from those who don't understand what happened on that night. Many have seemed only too quick to assume that the drownings were a result of a group of foolish young men who went to sea in an inappropriate boat with too much drink in them. To me, it is inconceivable that that was the case.

So what did happen on Saturday night on Iona? We shall never fully know. But what we do know as fact is that five highly experienced young seamen, who probably knew that stretch of water better than anyone else alive, made a valid decision to cross it in weather certainly no worse than that in which they would have crossed it many times before. They were travelling in a small boat that was famous for the steadfast way that it went about its normal task - which was to deliver the crew of a fishing boat every day across that very same stretch of water. We also know that the coastguard has said that the boat was not overloaded. And that all but one of them was lost.

Were they drunk? No. I simply cannot believe such a possibility. It was well-known in the locality that whenever these boys were out they always appointed a non-drinker in the party and the local publican has confirmed that this was the case on Saturday night. These weren't daft laddies; they were grown men and experienced seamen all.

Was the weather too rough then? Patently yes, but I can only assume that it was a freak patch of roughness rather than general bad weather - otherwise they would have stayed with their friends on Mull, just as they would have done on many other occasions.

So what went wrong? If I had to chance a guess, I would envisage a freak shower of rain which blocked out the moon, a huge wave roaring down the shallow Sound of Iona, a chance moment when the lack of visibility coincided with the arrival of that wave, and the boat eventually overturning. Maybe there was a rock involved. In Gaelic we have a saying: 'The sea forgives, but the rocks are merciless.'

So what should we make of it all? Should we dismiss these men as hot-heads who got their just comeuppance? Well, you can if you like, but I won't. Recently I read a remark by Woody Allen, who said that much of the purpose of New York society was to create a situation where nothing ever happens. These guys lived in a place where "things" happen all the time, where danger and risk are integral parts of everyday life, and where indeed it is only those who take risks that survive at all.

Even though these men died young they will have probably lived more in their short lives than many who die old in cities. I salute them. But it is those left behind on the island who will have to pay a heavy price for this accident.

I have been thinking today particularly of one widow, a good woman - if the term has any meaning at all - who has lost her only son, after losing his equally decent father to cancer when that man was in his forties. I have been thinking of a young girl howling in a caravan. I have been thinking of three families who have lost their only son.

And I have been thinking of the 70-strong community on Iona.

Yesterday a community worker who works on Mull and Iona phoned me to say that she didn't believe that the tiny island community of Iona would ever recover from the loss of so many of its most promising young men, but I had to disagree with her. Nevertheless, the loss is great. Take, for example, Logie MacFadyen.

Logie, just 23, ran his family croft on the north end of the island. It overlooks the white sands of Iona, which were made famous by the Iona colourists Peplow and Bunty Cadell. Logie's father, the late Doodie MacFadyen, was one of the most respected members of the community and now lies buried next to John Smith, the former Labour leader. Doodie died of cancer while he was still in his forties and Logie was just in his teens.

After his father's death, Logie would return from school at Oban on the weekends to work the croft. The community was hugely impressed by the way a child did a man's job. It is particularly sad that now with Logie gone, his widowed mother, Jane, will have to manage the land all by herself.

Then there is Bob Hay, 23, a member of the Beaton family. He helped crew a tourist boat which took visitors out to Fingal's Cave on Staffa. Davy Kirkpatrick, 23, also lost, worked on the prawn trawler *The Silver Spray*, with Ally Dougal, only 19 and another fisherman who has fallen victim to this tragedy. The Kirkpatricks will be very hard hit. They are a well-known Iona family, specialising in boats, running a fish-

ing vessel and a tourist boat.

The Beatons, the Kirkpatricks, the Dougals, the MacFadyens are as much part of the island of Iona as the very rocks themselves and, although the island community is vulnerable, it is also perversely a very strong one because of those families and several others like them.

The community will react with immense sadness, dignity and self-reliance. As locals the men will be entitled to be buried at the Reilig Oran, which in the medieval period was known as the Westminster of Scotland. Here lie the kings and chieftains of Scotland in the medieval era. King Duncan was buried near to his murderer Macbeth, of Shakespearean fame.

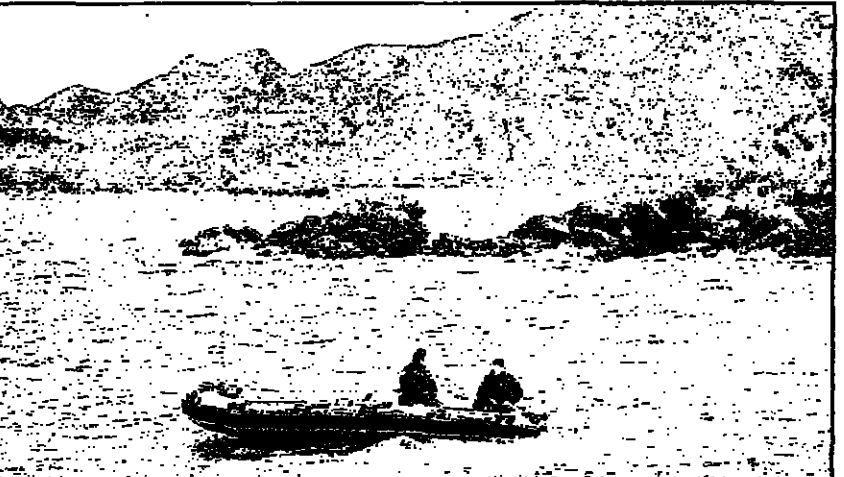
No one knows when the funerals will take place as, at the time of writing, only one body has been found. The grieving will be nurtured by dozens of their extended family, many of whom will return to Iona when the funerals are possible, and by hundreds of other mourners who know the families through their annual visits to the island.

At this moment on Iona the tiny community is suffering a downturn in its fortunes. The school is under threat of closure. The people are suffering from bad seasons in tourism and farming while the price of housing is now equal to that in London. But the community will survive. It will survive because it is built from people like the ones who were lost on Saturday night. Decent, hard-working people, people who are prepared to take a risk. People who love the place. People who deserve our admiration. Let our prayers be with them this Christmas.

'Oh that I could live forever, near to the Sound of Iona/ I would leave these never never, lovely Sound of Iona.'

The local police resumed their search for bodies on Monday morning. The missing men weren't 'daft laddies', but experienced seamen

Brian Fair



The local police resumed their search for bodies on Monday morning. The missing men weren't 'daft laddies', but experienced seamen

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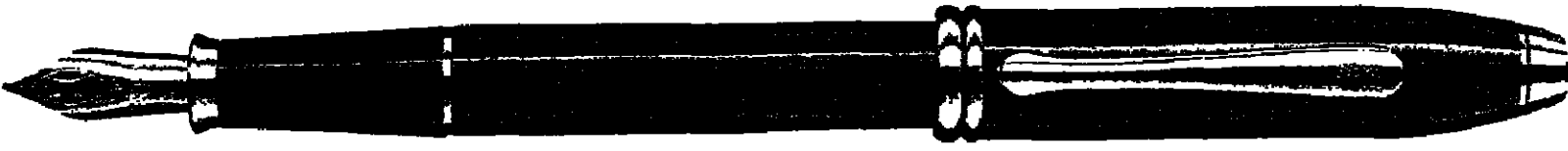
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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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## Lottery torture

Sir: Having been close to the problems of the Earth Centre for some time I have come to the conclusion that Lottery funding is a sophisticated form of torture. It raises hopes and stimulates dreams which are gradually ground down by the pressure of having to find matching funding.

The cynical flavour of Nozle Neisewand's article (11 December) will not have boosted morale at Conisborough. This is one of the Landmark projects which sets its sights well beyond the fix of the 2000 event. As the next century progresses the Earth Centre will become an international focus for information and research on matters to do with global warming and climate change. At present the idea of "sustainability" is fashionable: within the next few decades it could be a matter of life and death. There is no other enterprise under way which will so effectively point the way to survival.

I endorse Professor Ken Pounds' plea (letter, 14 December) that the Millennium Commission with government help ensures that enterprises which will shape the future, like the Earth Centre realise their design potential. Professor PETER F SMITH  
School of Construction  
Sheffield Hallam University

## Ways to sell homes

Sir: Martin Fraser seems to think the current house purchase system cannot be improved upon (letter, 9 December). Is he a lawyer? Other countries have efficient and workable systems which produce less stress and anguish in house transfers.

Canada, for example. There is a standard agreement form and a few brief conditions are added, such as satisfactory survey and availability of funds within a specified time, maybe 10 to 14 days, during which time the offer to sell is legally regarded as irrevocable. When the conditions are met, the deal becomes final, unless concealed facts about title, or other statements by the vendor, become apparent within a further specified period. The purchaser pays a deposit (perhaps 1 to 2 per cent) which is surrendered if he reneges without due cause. Thus the deal has to be decided within a brief time limit - which depends on banks, lawyers and surveyors working effectively.

The land is (usually) already registered. No long chains build up and both vendor and purchaser soon know the outcome of the offer. Problems seem to be rare, and over the years I bought and sold three houses there with less doubt than a single purchase here. There can be a better way.

KEN JOY  
Kenilworth, Warwickshire

Sir: I am a retired chartered surveyor who is less than proud of my institution and its role in government proposals on the housing market. The only possible reason that the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors should "hail revolution in house buying" (report, 8 December) is that it sees the government proposals as an opportunity for surveyors to raise their profile and obtain more fees from unnecessary surveys which potential vendors would be forced to commission.

Any rational professional analysis must conclude that the proposals would deter many house-owners from putting properties on the market, thus increasing scarcity and forcing prices upwards with more, not less, opportunity for gouging. The "seller's pack" could cost a vendor up to £1,000 just to put the property on the market and both the survey and the legal search elements of the pack would be out of date in quite a short time. Any delay in finding a purchaser could therefore result in even more continuing expenditure for a vendor.

These proposals will disadvantage both the buyers and sellers. The Government should beware the partial advice of an



Christmas Workers No 2: the toy demonstrator. At Hamleys toy shop in London's West End, Stephen demonstrates blow-up gum

Tom Pilkston

institution representing a profession whose relevance continues its decline of recent years.  
NICHOLAS HICKS  
Maidstone, Kent

## Nato's global role

Sir: Robin Cook is once more showing "Germany and US split over role for Nato", 9 December) that the UK has neither an independent nor an ethical foreign policy. His "me too-ism" behind the US is becoming automatic. The further expansion of Nato into a US global military force is a dangerous, destabilising policy. China and South Africa, among others, have already voiced strong opposition.

Nuclear-armed Nato has nothing to do with nuclear so-called deterrence, but everything to do with proliferation. By reiterating that nuclear weapons are needed for defence, the nuclear weapons states are creating the ideal climate for proliferation. Thus the decline into further danger this year with India and Pakistani nuclear testing while Israel, Iran and others are stealthily getting on with development.

We need a Nato policy which will contribute to the stability of the world. Backing the German call for a policy of no first use of nuclear weapons would be a sound first step.

RAE STREET  
Littleborough, Lancashire

## Boats of war

Sir: Leonard Reynolds' account of the wartime activities of Motor Torpedo Boats and Motor Gun Boats in Historical Notes ("Dog boats in the battle of the narrow seas", 7 December) took me back to my treasured copy of *The Battle of the Narrows Seas* (Country Life, 1945) written by Lt-Cdr Peter Scott (artist son of Scott of the Antarctic and later to become famous for his prowess in sailing and gliding and as the founder of the Slimbridge bird sanctuary) as a history of the Light Coastal Forces in the

Channel and North Sea, 1939-1945.

Scott was himself a Coastal Forces "ace" and commanded a flotilla of steam gunboats (SGBs) which were just long enough to have names (appropriately, Scott's own boat was *Grey Goose*) and which saw action for the first time as part of the naval force for the Dieppe raid in August 1942. The book is graced by his own pen and ink drawings and portraits of fellow officers as well as colour reproductions of some of his wartime watercolour paintings.

Scott makes the point, however, that by March 1944 "the concept of a dual-purpose boat had become universal in Coastal Forces. The distinction between MTB and MGB had been almost entirely removed, all newly constructed boats (being) fitted with torpedoes and guns, and a torpedo armament was added to all but a very few of the oldest MGBs". With only a few exceptions, the official title "MGB" was replaced by "MTB" although "a small number of the oldest D-class boats changed their title but were not converted and found themselves in an anomalous position as MTBs without torpedoes".

GEOFFREY BATTEN  
Birmingham

Sir: Commentaries on the latest reduction in interest rates have left me increasingly puzzled by the view that the health of the economy appears to be measured by the size of shop sales over the Christmas period. Do not most people realise that the accumulation of more and more "stuff" does not improve the quality of life? Modest presents accompanied by a happy family atmosphere at home over Christmas are more important. Perhaps an ability and willingness to support the poor and lonely in our society might be a better measure.  
JULIET BULLMORE  
East Bergholt, Suffolk

## Save our coral

Sir: John Prescott's call for a UN body to "tackle the threats to oceans from global warming and pollution" is admirable ("Britain wants UN body to save reefs", 10 December). It is particularly admirable given that one of their first ports of call should be the UK.

Recent discoveries have found incredible coral reefs on biogenic mounds below the surface of the north-east Atlantic off the west coast of Scotland. Little is known about these coral habitats and the ecology of the species around them.

However, it is looking increasingly likely that before much more is known about these sites they will be destroyed or degraded as a result of Department of Trade and Industry action. While Mr Prescott is preaching to the UN, his colleague Peter Mandelson is busy licensing the whole of the north-east Atlantic for new oil development.

The new oil developments licensed by the DTI threaten the UK's ocean coral through global warming and pollution. The new oil produced cannot be burned if we are to prevent potentially damaging the coral through

climate change. But long before then, the coral is likely to have been smothered by drill cuttings and polluted by oil spills.

John Prescott should bear in mind that "bringing the message home" means clearing up your own backyard as much as preaching to the international community.  
ROB GUETERBOCK  
Greenspace UK  
London N1

## Good intentions

Sir: In all the recent coverage of the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, I failed to see any reference to the fact that its preamble contains the sentiments and words of the equally pious and well-intentioned Declaration of 24 May 1915, by the entente powers, which promised to punish Turkey for the genocide of the Armenians, and which used such words as "crimes... against humanity and civilisation".

It created the framework of international law for the codifying of "crimes against humanity". It was later used in the Nuremberg Charter (article 6).

It is easy to explain why the

Universal Declaration is no more effective than the 1915 Declaration. Just as Turkey was not punished for its crimes - because the victorious Allies were too busy competing among themselves for the spoils of the defunct Ottoman Empire to care about the genocide of the Armenians - neither will the Universal Declaration be effective as long as nations pick and choose whom they will "punish".

When political expediency comes against moral rectitude, no one will get a prize for guessing which will win. The big and the strong will only pick on the small and the weak. And since it is only the big and the strong who can do anything about violations of human rights, only the small and the weak will be punished.

Pious words and intentions never deterred a killer.  
ANDREW KEVORKIAN  
London W1

## No callous Dean

Sir: May I make some points about the article and headline, "Dean censured for 'callous' sacking", (10 December)? I write as someone who has attended Westminster Abbey during 46 years. I have appreciated Dr Neary's music and would have many positive things to say about the Dean, Dr Wesley Carr.

The word "callous" is neither in Lord Jauncey's report nor in the body of the article as printed.

The first paragraph of the article states that the Dean was reprimanded by a government report for the way in which he dismissed Dr and Mrs Neary. The advice of Lord Jauncey to the Queen is not a government report.

Essentially he had to consider whether the Dean and Chapter (not the Dean alone) were justified in concluding that actions amounting to gross misconduct had occurred.

PETER BOTTOMLEY MP  
(Working West, C1  
House of Commons  
London SW1)

## Animal wrongs

Sir: Following the furor in the press surrounding the hunger strike of a single animal rights activist, we feel it is important to point out that this tiny minority is far outweighed by the great many animal welfare supporters who are involved in peaceful campaigns against cruelty to animals.

Naturewatch has been democratically lobbying MPs and industry for a Royal Commission into animal experiments for the past three years and has gained the cross-party support of 248 MPs. There are substantial arguments for the establishment of a Royal Commission, which Naturewatch will continue to put forward through legal means.

The violent activities of the extremist animal activists are guaranteed media coverage. Why shouldn't law-abiding campaigning work merit just as much attention?  
JOHN RUANE  
Director  
Naturewatch  
Cheltenham,  
Gloucestershire

Sir: He was only an animal rights protester, but he chickened out in the end.  
MARTIN KYRLE  
Eastleigh,  
Hampshire

## A new NHS

Sir: The letter from Dr Danny Wallace (9 December) reflects the current lack of awareness about the structure, function and future development of NHS Direct. This is understandable as the blueprint for this service is still being developed.

The development of a high-quality nurse triage system of the type used in our NHS Direct pilot will save lives that would otherwise be lost in the current model of healthcare. It will also have a beneficial effect on the outcomes of episodes of acute and chronic illnesses.

The system will offer the tool to integrate emerging primary care and secondary care systems in a way that will help reduce long waits in accident and emergency departments, and will help people to help themselves.

Health education will be improved, as will patients' access to services. By helping patients to consistently get to the right entry point into the health service, waste of professional and patient time will be reduced, to everyone's benefit. This is not wishful thinking but part of an exciting, evidence based, modernisation program for the NHS.

The NHS methods that have served us well since 1948 may not be the ones to lead us into the next century.

Dr KEVIN MCKENNA  
Medical Director  
NHS Direct Northumbria

Sir: Dr Danny Wallace must live a charmed life down in Devon. Has he ever tried to get through to his GP on the telephone for advice?

As both a consumer and a provider of services within general practice, my experience is that many doctors are only officially available to speak to people on the phone for about half an hour to one hour per day, possibly at a time not convenient for the person ringing in. This assumes you can first get past the efficiently trained receptionist's vetting process. GPs have been required to take on an ever-increasing range of tasks, so they must let go and let others take on certain responsibilities.

Nurses are ideally placed to offer advice on some matters, and to direct people to appropriate help for others.  
BRIDGET CLARENCE-SMITH  
RGN/RV  
London N8

## In the pipeline

Sir: Reports say Thames Water are laying off 300 staff. Will that be compulsory redundancies or natural leakage?  
WILLIAM F LONG  
Loughton, Essex

## A half-century of jolly conundrums for Christmas

TODAY WE bring you a Christmas Quiz, but a Christmas Quiz with a difference. All other Christmas quizzes are about the news of the past year, or current events, or general knowledge. This Christmas Quiz is just about Christmas. And you don't have to answer any of the questions...

1. Lord, is it December already?
2. Have we ordered a turkey?
3. You remember what happened last year?
4. Or was it the year before?
5. We don't want to have that happening again, do we?
6. When are we going to get the Christmas tree?
7. You remember what happened last year?

8. When you left it to Christmas Eve?
9. And all the trees had gone?
10. Except for a few about two feet high?
11. And you bought one so small that you put it on the table and said: "Table-top trees are all the rage this year"?
12. And it fell off the table 15 times over Christmas?
13. Pulling the lights out of the socket and shorting the electrics each time?
14. Which reminds me, have we got the tree lights out again this year?
15. What do you mean, you can't remember where you put them?
16. Well, I think we ought to get them out and test them, don't you?

17. Incidentally, are we going to have a Christmas card session soon?
18. Well, are we going to send any this year?
19. Didn't you say that last year?
20. You remember, you said that you weren't going to send any this year, and then you relented and said you ought to send some after all and by that time it was 23 December, which was far too late, but oh no, you would insist on sending loads out even though you knew they wouldn't arrive anywhere until after Christmas, and, in the case of our Australian friends, the New Year...?
21. Which reminds me, are we going to accept that invitation from the Wilgoes to drinks on the 23rd?
22. No, not the 22nd, I think it was the 23rd, wasn't it?

**MILES KINGTON**  
Are we going to accept that invitation from the Wilgoes to drinks on the 23rd?

23. Where have you put the invitation?
24. I gave it to you, didn't I?

25. Never mind - were there any cards in the post this morning?
26. Oh, who was it from?
27. What do you mean, you've no idea who it's from?
28. Isn't there a name inside?
29. What do you mean, there are 17 names written inside?
30. And you don't know any of them?
31. Why not read the names out?
32. Who's Terry?
33. Who's Tracey?
34. Who's Ken and Barry and Liz and Jenny and Oscar...?
35. Hold on, I don't think we know any of these people at all - isn't this one of those office cards where everyone sits round and signs their names and they all get shot off to

- clients, or in our case, people who used to be clients?
36. Why on earth do they bother?
37. Incidentally, have we got any crackers yet?
38. You remember what happened last year?
39. When we left it so late we never got any?
40. And you found that old box of crackers in the cellar?
41. And produced them triumphantly on Christmas Day?
42. And they were so old, that none of them made a bang?
43. And all the gifts inside the crackers were indoor fireworks, which were so far past their sell-by date that they either didn't go off or exploded dangerously?

44. And all the jokes in the crackers were so old that half were incomprehensible and the other half actionable under the Race Relations Act?
45. Incidentally, have you got anything for making mulled wine with?
46. You remember what happened last year, don't you?
47. When we suddenly decided to make some hot spicy wine?
48. And the only kit we could find was at the back of the kitchen cupboard?
49. And the Best Before date was December 1993?
50. And you said, "Well, let's try it anyway - it can't have gone off that much..." but it had?  
Etc. etc. etc.

هكذا من الراجح



# THE INDEPENDENT

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## Now Israel must help Mr Arafat to deliver peace

THE DECISION to revoke clauses in the Palestinian Liberation Organisation's charter, those denying Israel's right to exist, is some cause for celebration. But the semantics involved in getting to this stage, and the debate over the formal vote that was eventually taken, are another depressing reminder of the ground still to be made up in the Middle East peace process.

The clauses the Israelis objected to were indeed offensive. They called for the destruction of a whole nation, the only full democracy in the region, which has as much right to exist as every other state. They were an anachronistic throw-back to the bad old days of confrontation, a thorn in the side of a peace process which should make all sides feel more secure, not less.

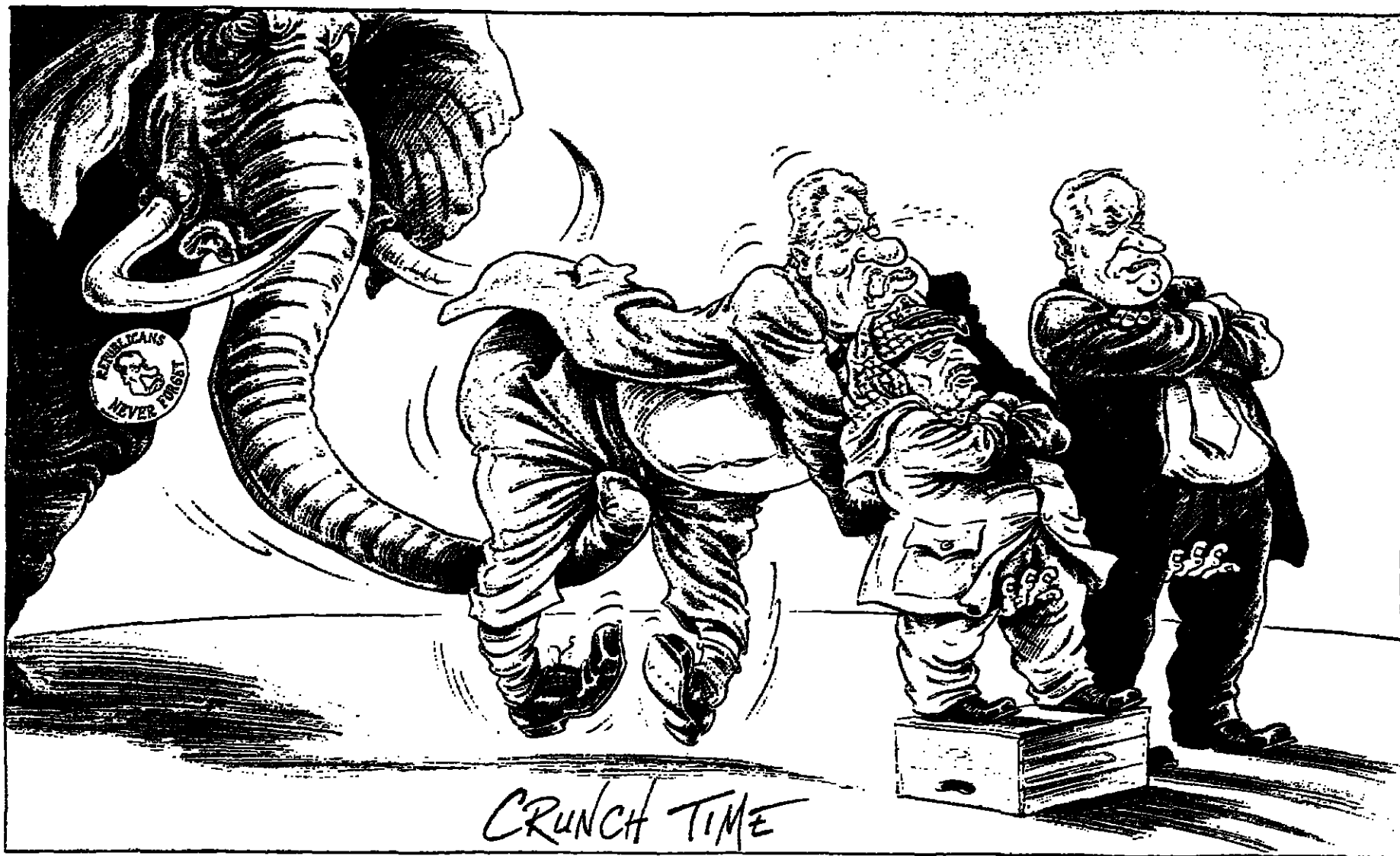
Israel has every right to defend itself by bargaining with the release of prisoners, and yielding up of land, which it agreed to in the Wye accord just weeks ago. But there seems little doubt that Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian National Council, at least, are sincere in renouncing the war of which their charter speaks. The Palestinians' legislative body, the Central Council, had already voted to do just that. The whole process, including the famous Rabin-Arafat handshake in Washington, has always involved an implicit acceptance of the reality of Israel.

This does not mean that explicit repeal means nothing. It is a welcome symbol to an anxious Israeli public, and demonstrates Mr Arafat's ability to shape Palestinian opinion as a whole. The benefits, however, will stop there.

Israelis' real fear - further terrorism on their own soil - will not be lifted. The PLO cannot deliver the end of terrorist violence; it is aimed as much at them and their compromises with the old enemy as it is at the Israelis. Ever since the Palestinian *intifada* began in 1988 Mr Arafat has exercised a diminishing authority over Palestinians. Now Israel seems to be doing all it can to speed that process.

Mr Netanyahu's ratcheting up of his demands on all and sundry is misguided. He is a man who can sense weakness, and exploit it; now, he perceives Mr Arafat to be ailing, both physically and politically, and is concerned only to make domestic political capital from this advantage. Mr Netanyahu lacks the feel for the historic compromise which would secure Israel's future, unlike an older generation of the Israeli right represented by Begin or Shamir.

His tactical adroitness is not matched by his sense of strategy. He has every right to insist that the Palestinian Authority do everything in its power to stamp out terrorism; but beyond a certain point, turning the screw further will weaken Mr Arafat, and his ability to deliver. That point has now been reached. The Palestinian recognition of Israel is welcome, even if hedged around with doubts; it is up to Mr Netanyahu to see that Israel responds.



## An efficiency drive that misses the point

A MUSEUM director was astonished when he attended a meeting with the Prime Minister and the Arts Minister to find that the only word used as an aim was "efficiency".

Efficiency is indeed the prime purpose of Chris Smith's announcement yesterday of a new funding structure for the arts. Stripped of all the current management-speak about increased outputs and aims, what Mr Smith is really doing is reducing the number of bodies through which grants go to the arts, and centralising them.

Nothing wrong with that, although it sits uncomfortably with the Government's other declared aim of devolving power. From an efficiency viewpoint it's probably better to roll the Crafts Council into the Arts Council, to merge English Heritage and the Royal Commission on the His-

torical Monuments of England and to wrap architecture into a new national body. It's also good to see a moderate increase in funding for the new bodies, along with special funds to enable museums to waive charges. The problem is with aims. Efficiency of itself is not much of an ambition, particularly when it concerns so volatile and subjective a field as the arts. Loading into the comprehensive spending review a series of generalisations about excellence and "a duty to future generations" does not help.

Ultimately what matters with arts funding is not structures but people. The first Wilson government is remembered for its commitment to the arts because of Jennie Lee. The Royal Fine Art Commission has established a reputation because its members have proved particularly open and supportive of modern architecture.

Unfortunately, this Government has not been notable for its arts appointments. Chris Smith has been confused and ineffective. Gerry Robinson at the Arts Council and Sir Colin Southgate at the Royal Opera House are both wrong men

in the wrong place - examples of Blair's excessive cronyism to businessmen friendly to his party.

The creation of three new super-quangos is a chance to look hard again at appointments. The public has a right to know how these people are chosen and, more important, what are the targets and contract terms given to them.

## Neighbours...

THE NEWS of Sir Bernard Ingham's contretemps with his neighbour, in which a car door may or may not have been dented - and angry words certainly were exchanged - will come as no surprise to a generation of political correspondents. He is used to such confrontations. As the famously combative Mr Ingham might have said, this is all "bunkum and balderdash". Of course, it was much easier when Mr Ingham's famous boss was installed in 10 Downing Street. When the neighbours in No 11 caused trouble, he merely made sure they soon moved away.

# Who are these asylum-seeking scum? They're people like my grandparents

MR NICHOLAS van Hoogstraten is - all who know about him agree - a bad man. The milk of human kindness has long since turned rancid somewhere inside the property tycoon's tight waistcoat.

As chronicled in these pages yesterday, Mr van Hoogstraten has graduated from being the nastiest stum landlord of the post-Rachman era, and is now the nastiest landowner of the democratic age. He's the man, the very thin man, what fences the ramblers' way. It's Christmas, and most of us reared on pantomime hope that our hissing will help ensure that he gets his comeuppance.

Like any really good villain, Van Hoogstraten himself is disconcertingly clear about the reasons for his wickedness. He has erected a 7-ft fence and a barn across an ancient right of way (which would bring walkers within eyeshot of his vulgar folly, Hamilton House) because, as he puts it: "The only purpose of great wealth is to separate oneself from the riff-raff."

There have been hints from the millionaire that he may be prepared to use force to defend his land from incursion by middle-aged women wearing sensible shoes. Here we have it: brute force, selfishness and fault. Mr van Hoogstraten seems to be a one-man proven case for new "right-to-roam" legislation.

Coincidentally, I was reading about *L'Affaire d'Hoogstraten* while eating my All-Bran and listening to the *Today* programme, where they were discussing the laws and procedures governing the treatment of asylum-seekers. The Tory spokesmith on

Home Affairs, James Clappison (a full-faced young man, with the colour and demeanour of a country landowner himself), was being pressed on the issue of the many more people coming to this country than are strictly entitled to. Surely, he was asked, this is a major crisis, and something should be done? A Home Office minister followed and assured everyone that, yes, it was serious, and something was being done.

Asylum-seekers, you will recall, occupied one of the few vacant slots in the Queen's Speech, once the intention to reform the Lords had been allowed for. That's because bogus ones are flooding in from Albania and weird republics that didn't exist a decade ago. They're secreting themselves in HGVs and then falling off the backs of lorries in Dover and Hillingdon; they stow away in ships, aircraft, and haywains and the smaller ones, I daresay, hide in duty-free carrier bags. They then have to be put into costly prisons and disused mental hospitals, where they manage simultaneously to live expensively, and in squalor. Almost everyone agrees, as we saw earlier, that it is a serious problem and something must be done.

Well, I don't. Providing that the councils in Dover and Hillingdon are given a bit of extra dosh to help them cope, I think almost nothing should be done. Per capita we receive fewer asylum-seekers than several other European countries, and there are no signs whatsoever that that wonderfully elastic bit of material, the social fabric, is under any terrible strain.

My name, you may have noticed, is



## DAVID AARONOVITCH

Almost everyone agrees that immigration is a serious problem and something must be done. Well, I don't

not an old English moniker. My illiterate paternal grandparents, Moishe and Gitel, were two of the 120,000 Jews who came to live in Britain between the early 1880s and the beginning of the First World War. So, every year for three decades, an average of 4,000 East European Jews arrived and settled. Millions more passed through. At about the time that the Aaronovitches landed, the British consul in Riga, in Russian Latvia, gave voice to a familiar concern. Each ship leaving harbour, he said, contained only "160 passengers with passports, but 200 will land in London. The emigrants are supposed to be bound for the USA or South Africa, and might produce vouchers to this effect, but for the most part, these vouchers are a blind and given gratis by emigration agents here."

Naturally, they lived in squalor, prompting *The Times* - in the early years of this century - to run an article entitled, "The Alien Immigrant", in which it claimed that: "The average immigrant is unsanitary in his habits; he is personally unclean."

A Stepney councillor in 1911 commented that "the borough has been inundated by a swarm of people, fitly described as the scum of Central Europe". At this time, Moishe and Gitel were in Stepney, in Cable Street, where my father was later to be born. "Scum" is a very Hoogstraten word, and "inundated" means "swamped". I am third-generation scum; and, I suppose, part of the flood. Not only that, but I am far from sure that my grandparents were directly persecuted themselves by Cossacks or Black Hundreds. I suspect that they were really "economic migrants", part of that dubious tide of people whose object is self-betterment beyond the borders within which they were born. Certainly they could have stayed in Lithuania - hundreds of thousands of Jews did, and were still there in 1941.

The stay-at-home Aaronovitches would, almost certainly, have perished at the hands of the *Einsatzgruppen* or their local allies, in the first months of the Nazi occupation. I once wondered the same thing aloud in the presence of the then home secretary, Michael Howard, whose own Jewish forebears had come to Britain from Romania. Did this fact not, I asked him, in any way temper his harsh attitude towards asylum seekers in the late 20th century?

His response was one of incomprehension. Was I saying that there should not be immigration laws?

Yes, I think that there should, but I am reluctant about it, not strident. I tell my children, when they ask me, that we are very lucky to live in this country at this time. And they have no trouble in making the small leap of imagination that Mr Howard was not sufficiently agile or willing to make. Which is that there are many out there who wish to do what my grandparents did, and that our morality in seeking too assiduously to prevent them, is suspect. But how long is it before the descendants of immigrants turn, and begin to see things from the Hoogstraten perspective, not as an opportunity for people like them, but as a threat from folk alien to them?

Consider this debate - see Mr Clappison if you will - from the viewpoint of a dynamic, thwarted young Albanian, an intelligent Silesian Gypsy, or a bright Mogadishu stum dweller. They look at the world into which they were born, and see large parts closed off against them, as surely as though some selfish, amoral tycoon had built a barn and a fence across their paths. "We were here first," we tell them. "Go away."

What was it that Hoogstraten said? Ah, yes: "The only purpose of great wealth is to separate oneself from the riff-raff."

Well, that's certainly what this country sometimes appears to believe. We want the right to walk past Mr Hoogstraten's mausoleum, but we don't want some ragged bugger from Tirana strolling past ours.

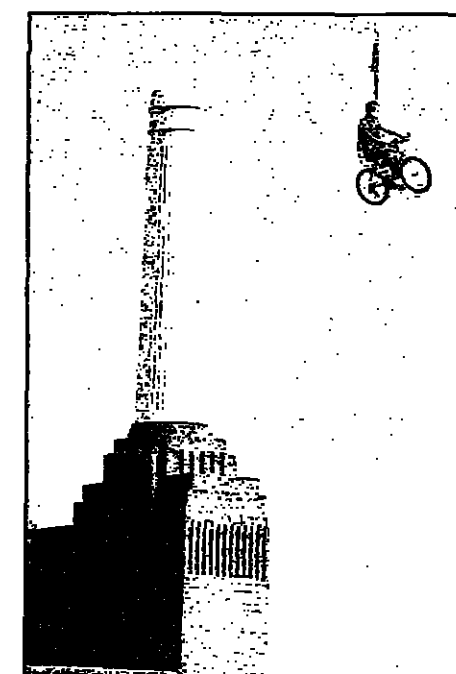
## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"This is a window, a window for the peace of the brave, peace with our neighbours."  
Yasser Arafat, Palestinian leader

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"When ideas fail, words come in handy."  
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, German poet

## THE INDEPENDENT PHOTOGRAPH



Bungee Jump by Kalpesh Lathigra  
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## MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD  
International comment on the weekend's European Union summit in Vienna

THE MAIN result of the summit is that the heads of EU states have given the German EU presidency the task of solving the problems. There should be no problem in formulating an acceptable jobs pact. No other issue has seen so many mostly woolly declarations and promises as employment.

Sueddeutsche Zeitung, Germany  
THE EUROPEAN Union is moving slowly. It is somewhere

between a common market and a country, so taking on new members is complex. Thousands of laws must be aligned. But the delay also stems from a lack of political will. Poorer countries already in do not want to share their subsidies. Rich countries do not want to take on new burdens.

Washington Post  
BLAIR VEHEMENTLY defended the rebate in Vienna but indirectly showed signs of com-

promise: he will give in if there is compensation for Britain in the domain of agricultural reforms. The British tactic is clear: nothing is given up lightly, and the first demand is

always the highest possible.

Berliner Zeitung, Germany  
THIS SUMMIT deserves criticism. The EU has not got time to throw away half a year con-

sidering its backlog of reforms. The German government exacerbated the problems by putting extra issues on the agenda, such as the jobs pact and the question of tax harmonisation.

General-Anzeiger, Germany  
A PARCEL of unsolved problems will now be passed on to the Germans. And it is hardly surprising that the German Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder (Klima's successor as presi-

dent of the European Council), was already talking big in Vienna. Here he announced that he intends to pretty much solve all the EU's problems before the summit meeting in Cologne next year. He wants to carry through his reforms, solve employment problems, draw up a common safety policy and, on top of all that, his country has to pay less into the communal pot than it has done until now.

Die Presse, Austria

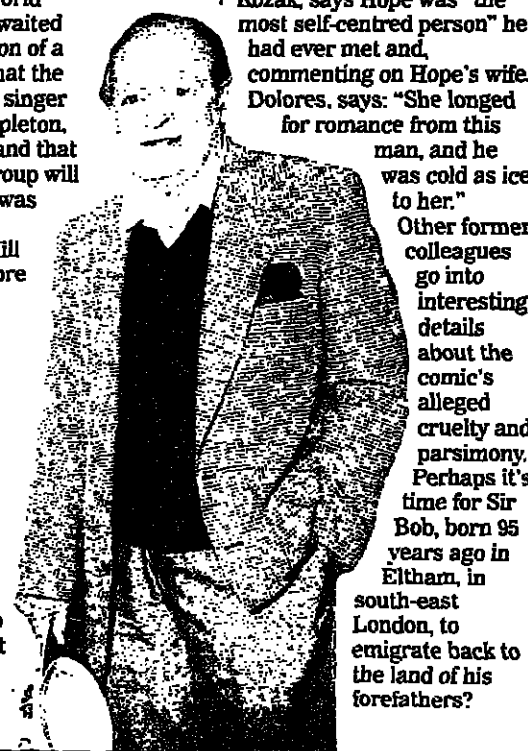


## PANDORA

WIDELY TIPPED to get a share of the Nobel Peace Prize, the former US Senator George Mitchell, so highly regarded for his work as mediator in the Northern Ireland peace negotiations, came away empty-handed in Oslo. But, it seems, not entirely unworried in Ireland. Mitchell has just become chairman of a US-backed \$20m (£12.4m) seaside golf course development in County Clare, called the Irish National Golf Club. In addition to his salary, Mitchell – who is a partner in the prestigious Washington law firm Verner, Lipfert, Bernhard, McPherson and Hand – will be given a plot of land to build a house at the resort, which will include three golf courses, a luxury hotel and a conference centre. Mitchell was appointed because he's "an icon of Irish-American relations", the development's chief executive officer, Doug Barton, told *The Washington Post*. His mediating talents may also have had something to do with it. The resort is under attack by Irish environmental groups, and there are questions about an American company (and its Irish subsidiary) receiving \$4m (£2.5m) in EC funds for the project.

IS WOOLWORTHS the first British retailer to ditch sterling in favour of the euro? Not really, but anyone who buys a packet of Woolies' festive milk chocolate coins this year may get that impression. The "classique" selection includes gold-foil-covered Deutschmarks, French francs, Danish kroner and, yes, euros – but not a single pound. "We buy this from a supplier," a Woolworths spokesman explained to *Pandora* yesterday. "They tell us that they are forbidden by law from making chocolate money in sterling. Other currencies are fine. You'd better check this with the Mint, I guess."

AS THE world eagerly awaited clarification of a rumour that the All Saints singer Nicole Appleton, has quit, and that the girl group will split, she was visiting a Notting Hill record store this weekend with her boyfriend Robbie Williams. *Pandora* suspects that the influence of Williams, who busted up Take That when he quit to



launch his successful solo career, may prove decisive. There's no doubt about Williams' self-consuming professionalism. According to the record shop assistant: "The last time he was here, his album was out, and he came in to see if we were displaying it properly."

READERS WILL recall *Pandora*'s report on Sports Minister Tony Banks' annoyance with Iain Dale's book *The Wit and Wisdom of Tony Banks*. Over the past two weeks, this column has demonstrated – with choice quotations – that the book is in fact a glowing homage to Banks, and that the Sports Minister's ire is surely misguided. However, when the most recent *Mail on Sunday* ran a story suggesting that the Prime Minister was thinking of dropping Banks from the Cabinet in his next reshuffle, it seemed a good time to ring Banks and offer our encouragement. Had he not read Dale's book to cheer himself up? "It will make him mad if I ask him," an aide said. "He will have no comment. He's having a pretty stressful time at the moment."

SIR BOB Hope, ennobled last May, is the subject of a humiliating attack in the new issue of *The New Yorker*. Foremost among his critics is Woody Allen, who is scathing about Hope's later TV career. "He was lazy – and nobody cared. He would come out and do these old-fashioned sketches, and after a while, he was unashamedly reading from cards. It was just awful," carps the arch-neurotic Allen. Far more hurtful, however, will be the words of Hope's former colleagues. Melville Shavelson, who wrote and directed a number of Hope's films, says: "The woman-chaser. The coward. The cheap guy. We just put them in. He thought he was playing a character. He was playing, really, the real Bob Hope." His former manager, Elliot Kozak, says Hope was "the most self-centred person" he had ever met and, commenting on Hope's wife, Dolores, says: "She longed for romance from this man, and he was cold as ice to her." Other former colleagues go into interesting details about the comic's alleged cruelty and parsimony. Perhaps it's time for Sir Bob, born 95 years ago in Eitham, in south-east London, to emigrate back to the land of his forefathers?

## The spirituality of sad old hippies



TERENCE BLACKER

Standing around the grave in the gathering dusk, we all sang 'Mr Tambourine Man'

I WAS not among Selwyn Burr's closest friends, our acquaintance down the years tending to be of the brisk, passing kind. But he was one of those men whom one was always glad to meet, a big, bearded, talkative character for whom the usual clichés – "one of a kind", "larger than life" – are not quite sufficient. Give or take the odd adventure in southern France or on the west coast of America, he had lived in East Anglia, where he had arrived in the wake of those looking for an alternative lifestyle, since the early Sixties. He had done up houses, developed unlikely properties and tried to set up music festivals, forever an opportunist but one who had remained faithful to his hippy-buccaneer roots. His was a wild and rascally life, so perhaps it should have been no surprise that he died suddenly in his sixties. He was buried last week.

There are funerals and funerals, and apart from one moment of bathos and irritation, Selwyn's was one of the better ones. Outside the church at Diss the coffin lay on a haycart behind a black carthorse. Inside there gathered a large crowd

of friends and family, an unconventional crew rather less formally and respectfully dressed than might normally be expected at a solemn occasion at St Mary's. A musician friend sang a song about love. There were two eulogies, one from someone who had known him since their school days and who recounted the facts of Selwyn's eventful life, and another from a more recent friend,

who talked about Selwyn's influence on those around him. Both were eloquent and heartfelt.

The vicar stood to make a sermon. His text was from St John, chapter 14: "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth and the life." The exposition was lengthy. We were told how Jesus was our friend, and why Christianity was different from all other religions, being more than just a set of rules. There was no reference to the life we were celebrating, or even to the reason why we were there. It was not a bad sermon, but every syllable sounded all-purpose and second-hand, as if it had been taken from "The Church of England Book of Sermons for Every Occasion".

As the sermon took its predictable course, the temperature in the congregation seemed to drop by about 10 degrees. It seemed to me – and later I discovered that I was not alone – that there was something hectoring in the well worn Anglican platitudes we were hearing. The secular obsessions had been expressed: now it was time for Jesus, not so much a friend, in this version, as a head prefect.

Church, we were being reminded, is not just for funerals or for Christmas but for always. Here, on an occasion when a group of serious and independent-minded people were at their most susceptible, was a perfect marketing opportunity. Instead, we were being reminded of how exclusive, respectable and uncompromising the Church of England could be.

Surely establishment religion need not be this unbending. After all, it was not in this very church that John Skelton, the great and outrageous poet and rector of Diss, presided in the early 16th century, banishing a fellow cleric for hunting pigeons with a falcon in St Mary's, penning vitriolic epigrams to parishioners of whom he disapproved and composing poems in which religious and sexual devotions are scandalously conflated?

The unconventional attitude to religion lives on in Diss, incidentally. The local record shop has put a life-sized Nativity scene in its front window, in which Robbie Williams appears as Joseph and Natalie Imbruglia as the Virgin Mary, carrying in swaddling-clothes, Mel B.

After the service, the haycart set off briskly through Diss towards Wortham Ling, a common two miles from Diss, on the border of which Selwyn was to be buried. Some of us trotting after the procession (the horse seemed to be in training for the plough sprint championships) partook of some half-time refreshments in a pub along the way, arguing that it was what Selwyn would have wished.

As a result we missed the interment, and, by the time we arrived, the vicar had gone and friends were already shovelling clay and earth into the grave. When the work was completed a guitar was produced and songsheets were handed out. Standing around the grave in the gathering dusk, we sang "Mr Tambourine Man".

To a passer-by on Wortham Ling we might have seemed like a bunch of sad old hippies but as, far from the twisted reach of crazy sorrow, we sang in unison, the odd psalm-like melody hanging in the still winter air, I suspect that we all felt nearer to Selwyn and to genuine spirituality than at any time during the church service that morning.

## This row about guns will not unravel the peace process



DAVID MCKITTERICK

The present peace is an imperfect state of affairs, but infinitely preferable to what went before

UNTIL A little while ago the Northern Ireland peace process seemed to be summed up by the old Belfast adage, simultaneously cynical and optimistic, that the situation was desperate but not serious.

Recently the general view has shifted, as the impasse over arms decommissioning continues, mistrust remains at high levels and agreement on even routine details seems to take an eternity.

Both the Unionist party and the republican movement have painted themselves carefully into tight little corners that seem to offer no room for manoeuvre. David Trimble repeatedly says, with no ambiguity in his language, that he will not head an executive that includes Sinn Féin unless the IRA decommissions.

The IRA has just reiterated that it is firmly against decommissioning. Republicans accuse the Unionist party of trying to send them back to war, and speak ominously of growing disillusionment with the Good Friday agreement. Both sides believe, or affect to believe, that the other has won too many concessions, and it's their turn now.

So how bad is it? There are certainly reasons to be worried, for in addition to the central decommissioning deadlock there are many dangerous mines strewn around the landscape.

Savage "punishment" beatings by the major paramilitary groups still go on in ghetto backstreets. There are recurring street clashes between Protestants and Catholics in a number of areas.

The major paramilitary groups, loyalist and republican, have by and large maintained their ceasefires, but on both sides menacing splinters have appeared. These are microscopic in comparison to the big organisations, but they can kill, and have killed. The awful example of

Omagh, where 29 people were killed just four months ago, is a reminder of what a single bomb can do.

Disputes over loyalist marches still take place regularly. Orangemen in Portadown regard the banning of last July's Drumcree parade as a standing affront to their heritage, and continue to mount regular protests. It would be wrong to depict Northern Ireland as a society in turmoil, but it is plainly not a land at ease with itself. The Good Friday agreement may have provided a blueprint for more peaceful co-existence, but most of it has not yet been enacted, and even when it is there will be years of coping with the legacy not just of the Troubles, but of previous centuries of discord.

Decommissioning can be viewed as a metaphor for all of that, as two communities struggle to work out the new power relationships between their political representatives. David Trimble says he is prepared to share cabinet power with Sinn Féin, but only on his own terms: republicans say he is in the business of trying to cut them down to size.

A constant talking-point in political circles is the state of Mr Trimble's party. The May referendum on the agreement produced 71 per cent approval for it, but nearly half the Unionists voted against it. Many of these No voters now appear to accept that the overall result has given it considerable legitimacy, and that it is probably here to stay.

But even a section of those Unionists who voted for the agreement do not want Sinn Féin in the new government, or would accept this only after decommissioning. The latter position has been deliberately hardened up by Mr Trimble, who supported a motion to that effect at his recent party conference.

The debate continues on whether this is his own preferred stance or whether he has been pushed into it by his assembly back-benchers, some of whom have grave reservations about the Good Friday agreement. It is certainly the case, however, that a majority of his Westminster MPs remain opposed to the whole deal. These divisions mean that the party line has been volatile and unpredictable.

Another frequent subject for debate is whether some in the Unionist party might actually believe the decommissioning demand could in the end deliver them a republican-free executive. If they could pull this off it would produce an executive based on the Unionist party, the Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist party and the nationalist SDLP.

This is a mirage. Not only would it smack of a resurrection of Unionist majority rule, but it would mean John Hume and Seamus Mallon of the SDLP abandoning their philosophy of political inclusion and agreeing to the sidelining of Sinn Féin. Mr Hume did not spend all those years helping to bring the republicans into the system, and win-



A member of the RUC displays captured terrorist weapons

ning a Nobel peace prize for it, to abandon them now.

The much more likely scenario is that the decommissioning issue will come to a head in the new year, and will somehow be resolved. At present no one can say precisely how the irresistible force of Mr Trimble can avoid a destructive collision with the immovable object of Mr Adams; but the overwhelming sense is simply that it must be done.

A breakthrough this week on the issues of government departments and new cross-border arrangements could help the atmosphere considerably, and that is a possibility. But even if that doesn't happen, the chances are against the whole thing unravelling.

This is because there is an underlying strength and appeal in the peace process that has enabled it to surmount so many obstacles in the past. A variety of factors continue to underpin it: all sides know that Tony Blair, with his 170-odd majority, is not to be trifled with; they also know the moral and political force of that 71 per cent referendum vote.

And almost all the politicians personally want the new system to work. In part this is because of the straightforward lure of office, position and status, after years when politics offered gainful employment to very few. In part it is due to idealism, of wanting to be part of a system that offers an alternative to war.

Even as the Unionist party and Sinn Féin bombard each other with hard-line rhetoric, the bottom lines that they have a shared interest in both see real advantages in the new system, and neither wants it to fail. Putting something similar together again after a collapse would take long years.

Above all, there is the deep public desire for peace. The present peace is, as we have seen, a highly imperfect state of affairs, yet for most people it is infinitely preferable to what went before. It is this huge and pressing desire for peace which will eventually propel Unionists and republicans in the direction of the accommodation which has so far eluded them.

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## The pragmatic route to reform



PODIUM

LORD IRVINE  
From a lecture by the Lord Chancellor to the Constitution Unit, a non-aligned think-tank, in London

NO OTHER government this century has embarked upon so significant or wide-ranging a programme of constitutional reform as the New Labour Government. It is my particular pleasure, as the member of the Cabinet entrusted with driving forward development of policy, to have been invited here to give this lecture.

We have been widely praised, but also there is an indictment. The criticisms go in inconsistent directions. At one end are those who say that our reforms are too wide-ranging, too radical, verging on the revolutionary. At the other end are those who complain that they do not represent the root-and-branch overhaul that is required to drag the country's constitutional arrangements into the 21st century.

Our critics include some who, to their credit, suffered long years of frustration arguing for some of the changes we have made. Yet now they, too, may have doubts; we have left things out or postponed them (for example freedom of information), we should have gone further and not only made the rights in the European Con-

vention enforceable in domestic courts, but had a Human Rights Commission as well, or should have gone the whole hog and allowed the judges to set aside Acts of Parliament; or we should have waited to develop a home-grown Bill of Rights; or we should have done nothing at all until we had developed, perhaps through a Constitutional Convention, a comprehensive constitutional code. Or we should have established a new Constitutional Court.

The Government's approach is pragmatism based on principle. We believe that "what matters is what works"; we are not imposing uniformity for uniformity's sake.

It would be extraordinary if a union of such diverse parts as the United Kingdom could yield to a uniform pattern of powers, devolved from the centre. The continued harmony of a union of parts so diverse requires structures sensitive to place and people, not uniform structures imposed for uniformity's sake.

Intellectually satisfying neatness and tidiness are not the cement that makes new constitutional arrangements

for all three are, of course, quite different. The UK is an asymmetrical entity, and the Government's approach reflects the different histories and contemporary circumstances of England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. We are not promoting a federal style uniform devolution of powers, but differential devolution to different parts of the United Kingdom.

Second, there are our proposals for London. We will give London the voice it needs and deserves by creating a city-wide strategic authority, consisting of a powerful, directly elected mayor, and a separately elected assembly.

Third, regional government in England. The first step will be to establish regional development agencies, under the new Regional Development Agencies Act, in order to improve competitiveness and to provide for effective co-ordination of economic development. We remain committed to more accountable regional government in England. But we are not in the business of imposing solutions. We remain committed to move to directly elected regional government in England, where there is de-

mand for it. Finding the right solutions may take time.

Fourth, reform of local government. In keeping with our beliefs, there will cease to be a uniform structure for local government across the whole of the country. It will be for the people to choose the local arrangements that they feel best suit the needs of their own local areas.

Although there will be a number of different electoral systems as a result of the changes we are making, each is apt in the circumstances. Again, our approach is pragmatic. Clearly, the most important election is that to the Westminster Parliament.

The Government welcomes the Jenkins Report, and has made clear that it wants to study it in detail. The Government believes that decisions on Jenkins will need to be looked at as part of the constitutional reform programme as a whole.

After many decades of sterility, we have embarked on a major programme of changes. Principled steps, not abstract master plans, are the winning route to constitutional renewal, in unity and peace.

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ESTIMATED REVIEW

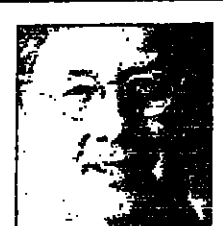
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سكرا من الاصل

# Farewell, couch potato



**HAMISH MCRAE**

*Thanks to ever cheaper and more sophisticated computer services, leisure will become more active*

BOUGHT ANY computer kit for Christmas? It is quite difficult not to notice that the pages of the papers at the weekend, including this one, were stuffed with advertisements for computers and related products. And if you have happened to buy a computer recently it is quite difficult not to notice how the price for similar machines seems to have halved in the last year. The computer we bought a year ago for £2,000 now goes for less than £1,000 - and they throw in printers and scanners for free.

That is something else that has changed: the extent to which hardware is given away free, while software can still be quite expensive. In *The Independent* last Saturday they were advertising colour printers at £70, the same price you would pay for a couple of video games. Yet someone has to design and manufacture the printer, put it into a box and ship it around the world. The manufacturing cost of the video game, by contrast, is the few pence needed to stamp out the CD.

It is very hard to make money out of making things; you make money out of the intellectual content of the software. That may be the antics of *Lara Croft* in *Tomb Raider III* or it may be a new programme that translates everything on your computer into French. It doesn't matter.

We have become so accustomed to these tumbling prices for computers that we hardly think about the process. When we do it is usually to complain that they are not coming down even faster. There seems to be some justification in these complaints, for it is quite true that prices in the US are lower still. But all this means is that we are now paying the prices Americans were paying last spring.

We have also become so accustomed to the increasing sophistication of software that we hardly blink when we hear of a new voice-recognition program. In fact we probably complain when it doesn't work very well unless you speak to it in a spoof American accent, which it understands better.

But in regarding as normal this plunge in prices of computer hardware and surge in sophistication of software, we are missing something of profound importance - a process



A bright six-year-old on a computer can find out as much about a subject as the average MP with the resources of the House of Commons library at their disposal PA

that will utterly change our lives. We are glimpsing the early stages of the reversal of a trend that has been running for half a century. We are switching from passive leisure activities to active ones.

For the last 50 years, thanks to ever cheaper and ever more sophisticated television, the tendency has been for leisure activities to become more passive. Now, thanks to ever cheaper and ever more sophisticated computer services, that tendency will be for leisure to become more active.

The wonderful thing about television is that you do not need to be very clever to use it. All you have to do is switch it on. In fact, however clever you are, there is not much you can do with it. You can switch channels and maybe if you are particularly bright you can try to programme the video-recorder. In addition, it is infinitely available; there in the room, ready to be used at no marginal cost. But essentially it is passive, and because it is so powerful a medium, absorbing three or four hours a day, it has sucked much of our leisure time from other, more active pursuits.

Now, quite suddenly, it has a serious challenger: the ever cheaper

and ever more capable computer. The cost of a computer is no longer a barrier: in real terms a mid-range computer is now cheaper than a mid-range TV set was 10 years ago. Soon it will be cheaper, while Internet access will become cheaper than the price of a TV licence. Like the TV, the PC is in the home, convenient for immediate use. But unlike the case with a TV set, to use it you have to be active.

The boxes look similar, but people use TV and PCs in completely different ways. They sit in different rooms; we sit different distances from them; we do completely different things with them. You have to do something all the time to make a computer work - play a game, send an e-mail, look up flights on the Internet, write a column for a newspaper.

But time spent on a computer is time not available for watching TV. Television-watching is falling in homes with computers and falling faster in homes where there is also Internet access. The leisure medium that seemed to sweep all before it (and which itself is seeking a great leap forward with digitalisation) is starting a long, slow, gradual retreat. It is not going to disappear; but in

relative terms it will become progressively less important.

It is very hard, in the early stages of some great social change, to see clearly the full implications of that change. In any case the rise of the PC (and in particular PCs connected through the Internet) is only one aspect of a more general trend towards active leisure activities rather than passive ones. The number of restaurants is rising; more money is being spent on holidays. But the rise of the computer has the greatest social implications. Here are some guesses at what these might be.

First, the next generation of young adults will be both extremely dextrous and extremely adept at gathering and manipulating information. They will have had hours of training (thanks to computer games) in eye/hand/keyboard co-ordination. And they will have had access to the global library of the Internet, plus all the various online or on-disk encyclopaedias. (*Encyclopaedia Britannica* was thrown in for free, along with the free printer and the free scanner, in one of those ads in Saturday's paper.)

Second, we will have a generation of very well educated people - on

average much better educated than their parents.

However, the level of education will be very much self-determined, for education is becoming a bottom-up, demand-driven activity, rather than a top-down, supply-driven one. In the old days, to be well educated you had to be lucky enough to be well taught; increasingly you will need to be bright enough to use computers to teach yourself.

That leads to a third and more worrying probability. Some people will be excluded by the new technology, either because they don't have access to a computer, or because they lack the basic skills to use the kit. (I write as somebody who spent 15 minutes last night trying to programme a number into a cordless phone, before I gave up in disgust.)

Fourth - and leading on from my third guess - societies will become skill-differentiated rather than nationally-differentiated. Clever people in a country like Britain will find they have much in common with similarly educated people everywhere else in the world, while less clever people here will find themselves squeezed out of jobs by brighter people on the other side of the world.

Fifth, this democratisation of knowledge - the fact that anyone with a terminal can gain access to high-quality information - will tend to reduce the power of elites, particularly political elites, everywhere. A really bright six-year-old hitting a computer can, with a bit of help, find out as much about a subject as a typical MP despite the latter having all the resources of the House of Commons library. That is not meant to be a sneer at the intellectual capacity of our MPs, simply a comment on the fact that the comparative advantage of having a big research department will become much smaller, relative to the comparative advantage of having a good mind.

I can't pretend to be able to see clearly where this democratisation of knowledge will lead society. I am sure that it is as important a change as the spread of compulsory, state-funded education in the last century. And I'm sure, too, that having people using their leisure actively is more likely to lead to a fulfilled and balanced society than to one where leisure is largely passive. That holds true even if the activity consists of zapping away on some computer game.

## RIGHT OF REPLY

**ANTONY WORRALL THOMPSON**



The television cook and restaurateur responds to John Walsh's attack on celebrity chefs

JOHN WALSH'S article ("A real kitchen sink drama") appears to jump on the current bandwagon of knocking TV chefs. Walsh says: "The world of the TV chef is one of deadly competition, with no room for compromise."

Unfortunately, apart from a misquoted spat between Gary Rhodes and Delia Smith, the article fails to identify any argumentative TV chef.

I should point out that there is a difference between Michelin-starred chefs and TV chefs. All the in-fighting chefs Walsh named are the Michelin variety. Tom Aiken (*Pied à Terre*), Nico Ladenis (*Chez Nico*), Marco Pierre White (*The Oak Room* etc), and Michel Roux Jr (*Le Gavroche*) have only a smattering of TV appearances between them.

The Michelin-driven chef is a breed apart, operating a temple of gastronomy, and desperately seeking his holy grail - three Michelin stars. This, I am sure, can create a certain degree of competitiveness, although I have yet to experience "the dyspeptic condemnation of their rivals". The Michelin chef is unique; please don't judge all chefs by the same yardstick.

TV chefs are a pretty laid-back bunch. We are not interested, for TV purposes, in creating Michelin-style food. Cooking should be fun, and should not be attempted if you are feeling uptight. No longer is it an essential chore; you should do it because you enjoy it. Supermarket HRMs (home replacement meals), ready-made meals to you and me, have taken away the drudgery of cooking. If you don't enjoy cooking, you just need a microwave oven.

Most TV chefs are good chums. Friendly rivalries exist, but I don't know anyone who jumps about just because Delia's got a new series. No, we are all quite civilised, and enjoy each other's company.

# At last, the truth about George

I HAVE lost count of the number of times I must have settled down to read about George Eliot's life and then got bored. Although Eliot's life was far from boring, biographers often tend to bogged down in the religious disputes that dominated her youth. Then they tie themselves in knots trying to be tactful about her physical ugliness and the intricacies of her social and sexual meanderings.

Here at last, though, is an immensely readable, clear-sighted account of this remarkable novelist's free-wheeling life. Kathryn Hughes, indeed, is so unafraid of trespassing into tricky territory that her interest becomes, at times, unashamedly voyeuristic. This is a healthy and thrilling corrective to all that earlier delicacy and obfuscation. The scale of the hypocrisy Hughes exposes is breathtaking, and the intelligent gusto with which she performs her task is refreshing and delightful.

Queen Victoria and Mary Ann Evans were born within six months of each other in 1819. At neither birth



## TUESDAY BOOK

**GEORGE ELIOT: THE LAST VICTORIAN**  
BY KATHRYN HUGHES, FOURTH ESTATE, £20

could their future importance have been predicted. Yet Victoria was destined to give her name to the century and embody the respectable values of the times. The other girl, using the disturbing male pseudonym of George Eliot, would come to represent the very opposite: "One gave her name to virtuous repression, a rigid channelling of desire into the safe haven of marriage and family. The other, made wickeder by male disguise, became a symbol of the fallen woman, banished to the edges of society."

Hughes sets up this conventional view and then, with typical panache, dismisses it as "bluster". She goes on to detail the surprising number of parallels between the two lives: "When

it came to men, both clung with the hunger of children rather than the secure attachment of grown women... And when both men died before them, their widows fell into an extended stupor which recalled the despair of an abandoned baby." Queen Victoria and George Eliot would later form unlikely attachments, and in both cases "menopausal randomness was sniggeringly invoked as the reason for these ludicrous liaisons".

Young Mary Ann Evans cut such an embarrassing dash that it is hardly surprising earlier biographers attempted to gloss over her absurd behaviour. In her devout youth, she was ridiculously over-zealous: "During these years she started a clothing club, organised bazaars, ran a Sunday school and visited the local workhouse... 'We shall never have another Mary Ann Evans' was the ambiguous lament of those on the receiving end of her charity when she left Coventry in 1841."

She embarked on a vast, Casaubon-like project to create a chart laying out the history of the Church from the birth of Christ to the Reformation. She would go to parties and make a ridiculous spectacle of her puritanism: "She looked on from the sidelines while the other guests danced, chatted and flirted. Battling with an urge to surrender to the rhythm of the music and also, perhaps, to be the centre of attention, she took refuge first in a headache, then in an attack of screaming hysterics." Far from being embarrassed by her own antics, she described it all in vivid detail in a letter,



Trevyn McDowell and Douglas Hodge in the BBC's 'Middlemarch'

since "her shouting and weeping attested to her holiness".

This preposterous religiosity was later matched by the embarrassing zeal and blindness with which George Eliot threw herself at a series of married men. She had an unerring ability to gravitate towards unconventional menages, and Hughes never teases our curiosity unless it can't be helped. There is no shortage of detail about many relationships in her life. The publisher, John Chapman, for instance, obligingly kept a detailed diary in which he lovingly noted which of the women he kept in his household he had slept with, and recorded the rows he delighted in provoking between them.

The most shocking part of the book is the description of the treatment meted out to Marian Evans, as she was then known, when she started living with the married George Henry Lewes - who made the mistake of condoning his wife's affair with another man. He had allowed himself to be

named on the birth certificate as the father of a child of this liaison. This legality made divorce impossible for him. Although this had little impact on Lewes's own life, it put Mary Ann Evans (as she styled herself beyond the bounds of acceptability. Ironically, this coincided with the beginning of her career as a novelist and probably forced her to concentrate on writing fiction rather than gadding about.

The biography is beautifully written. A chapter beginning "Having waited fifteen years to start writing fiction, it was excruciating to have to put it off for three weeks longer..." is typical of the wit and perspicacity of the whole. But I never did find out what makes George Eliot "the last Victorian" - a phrase that appears to have been lifted out of its context in the final paragraph. I would have ventured a few paragraphs back and extracted the phrase "an extraordinary paradox". For there is much that is extraordinary, and paradoxical, in this book.

CHARLOTTE CORY

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## TUESDAY POEM

**'WHAT I SAY...'**  
AFTER MANDELSTAM, FROM 'A RUSSIAN NOTEBOOK'  
BY DAVID WHEATLEY

What I say is just a rough draft -  
whispered, since it isn't time yet.  
Only heaven lifts the trophy, whose heft  
of victory is all our blood and sweat.

And under purgatory's provisional sky  
to have grown forgetful's not so rare -  
not seeing that heaven's in our custody already -  
the lifelong home we've carried with us everywhere.

This poem comes from David Wheatley's first collection, 'Thirst' (Gallery Press, Loughcrew, Oldcastle, Co Meath, Ireland; £6.95)



# Janet Lewis

THE DEATH of the poet and novelist Janet Lewis, at the age of 99, marks the passing of the last survivor of the extraordinary generation of American literary talent which began to publish in the 1920s. She and Ernest Hemingway began their literary careers at virtually the same moment, with contributions to the same high school literary magazine. Her imagist poetry, which she continued to write throughout her long life, first saw the light of day when William Carlos Williams and H.D. were beginning their metrical experiments.

If she was in some ways representative of her generation, the spareness and limpidity of her writing were wholly her own, and her work was never touched by the implicit anti-intellectualism and contempt for the past that tainted the writings of many of her contemporaries. Her books possess a quality of deep repose, a kind of distilled wisdom in the face of human disaster and pain, which is difficult to describe and impossible to imitate, but which, once encountered, is unforgettable.

She was born in 1899, the daughter of a professor of at the University of Chicago. She read French at the same university, and whilst an undergraduate became a member of the Chicago Poetry Club, which at that time included many who were to be among the most influential poets of the 20th century. It was during this period that she met her future husband, the poet and critic Yvor Winters; travels in Europe were followed by five years in a sanatorium in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where she gradually recovered from tuberculosis.

Once cured, she and Winters were married, and moved to Palo Alto, California, in order to allow Winters to take up a position at Stanford University. They remained there until Winters's death in 1968, and Janet Lewis stayed in the same house, keeping Winters's study exactly as he had left it, until her own death.

Winters had a very forceful personality, one that sometimes overwhelmed those who came in contact with it, and it is an indication of Janet Lewis's own strength of conviction that her writings, while admired by her husband, are quite unlike his. Their published works do, however, show two shared concerns: a reverence for the natural world, and a conviction that intelligent sanity is both more difficult than unreflective complacency and more interesting than madness.

They shared, too, a consciousness that was unfashionably ahead of its time: they vigorously protested the internment of Japanese Americans in the Second World War. They were founder members of the California branch of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of

Coloured People); they organised the retrial of a man unjustly convicted of murder; and they were both deeply concerned with the plight and history of Native Americans.

This last preoccupation is apparent in Janet Lewis's first collection of poems, *The Indians in the Woods* (1922), and received its most extended treatment in her first novel, *The Invasion* (1932), an account of the penetration by Europeans of the area around Lake Superior. She later turned *The Invasion* into a libretto for an opera by Bain Murray, and she was to do the same with what is probably her most famous novel, *The Wife of Martin Guerre* (1941), opera 1966, with music by William Bergsma. She also turned texts by Wilde and Grimm into opera libretti, as well as Fenimore Cooper's *The Last of the Mohicans* (opera 1976, with music by Alva Henderson).

The novel that made her name, *The Wife of Martin Guerre*, was a fictionalised recreation of an actual legal case from 16th-century France, and two more of her novels, *The Trial of Soren Qvist* (1947) and *The Ghost of Monsieur Scarron* (1959) were also based on real trials in which circumstantial evidence played a crucial and misleading role. Her novel *Against a Darkening Sky* (1943) dealt with the impact of the Depression in California. She also wrote a book of short stories (*Goodbye Son*, 1946).

She continued to publish poetry until almost the end of her life; apart from *The Indians in the Woods*, volumes include *Poems* (1950), *The Ancient Ones* (1979), *Poems Old and New* (1981), *Last Offerings* (1988), and *The Dear Past* (1994).

Important though her novels are, her true spirit seems most obvious in the poetry: it is here that her gift for the evocation of other lives, her paradoxically clear and gentle gaze, the immense tact and tenderness of her vision, are most apparent. Able to use both traditional metres and imagist free verse with equal dexterity, she could create extraordinary resonances with the simplest of means, and in this she was like no other poet of her time.

Those who knew her attested to how the qualities evident in her writing were also everywhere apparent in her life: meeting her one felt the presence of a rare wisdom, kindness and understanding; sharp, witty, utterly without pretension, she truly seemed to be one of the very few who, in Arnold's phrase, "saw life steadily, and saw it whole".

DICK DAVIS

Janet Lewis, writer and poet: born Chicago 17 August 1899; married Yvor Winters (died 1968; one son, one daughter); died Palo Alto, California 1 December 1998.



Author of *The Wife of Martin Guerre*: Lewis in 1989

Brigitte Carnochan

## In the Egyptian Museum

Under the lucent glass,  
Closed from the living air,  
Clear in electric glare  
That does not change nor pass,  
Armlet and amulet  
And woven gold are laid  
Beside the turquoise braid  
With coral flowers inset.

The beetle, lapis, green,  
Graved with the old device  
And linen brown with spice,  
Long centuries unseen,  
And this most gracious wealth,  
Exiled from the warm hair,  
Meet now the curious stare –  
All talismans of death.

All that the anguished mind  
Most nobly could invent,  
To one devotion bent,  
That death seem less unkind;  
That the degraded flesh,  
Grown spiritless and cold,  
Be housed in beaten gold,  
A rich and rigid mesh.

Such pain is garnered here  
In every close-locked case,  
Concentrate in this place  
Year after fading year,  
That, while I wait, a cry,  
As from beneath the glass,  
Pierces me with 'Alas  
That the beloved must die!'

From *Poems 1924-1944* (1950)

# Eprime Eshag

EPRIME ESHAG was a teacher and practitioner of economics who hoped to be remembered as an unrepentant Keynesian socialist. It will indeed be difficult to forget the energy and passion which he devoted to this cause, in his years as a Fellow of Wadham College, Oxford, from 1963 to 1988, and in his work for various international organisations.

He was also remarkable for his unusual origins and eventful life before he came to Oxford in 1963. He was born in Iran in 1918, the son of a Christian preacher in the Assyrian minority from the town of Urmia. When he was only a few months old, the family fled persecution into the Russian part of Azerbaijan, where his mother died. His father and stepmother returned to Urmia in 1926.

In 1936 Eshag won the top scholarship from the Bank Mellé Iran to study accountancy at the London School of Economics. His interests moved towards economics and he came to the notice of J.M. Keynes as a man of promise. After a brief period working in the Bank in Tehran in 1946, he left, on a point of principle, to pursue private practice in accountancy in Iran. At the same time he was active but dissident member of the left-wing Tudeh party. He wrote two influential pamphlets which challenged the leadership, and he soon found it better to return to Cambridge, where he completed his PhD on the history of monetary theory.

Apart from Keynes himself, Eshag became too a devoted and enthusiastic disciple of Joan Robinson. Michael Kalecki was another Keynesian mentor. As he was interested in applying his knowledge in the context of international development, Eshag joined the UN as an Economic Affairs Officer in the UN Secretariat. His nine years in New York ended with two disenchanted field trips to Ethiopia and Zaire, and a confrontation with the UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld.

In 1963 Eshag joined both Wadham College and the Institute of Economics and Statistics in Oxford University. He continued to work for the UN on short contracts, such as a stint preparing documents for the North-South negotiations in 1980, and various studies for Unctad (United Nations Commission for Trade and Development). Much of his research output as an academic

is submerged in UN documents, but he also published studies of the problems of macro-economic management in "less developed countries" from all parts of the world: Argentina, Egypt, Tunisia, West Africa and South Korea, for example, often in collaboration with junior colleagues at the Institute.

Much of what he wanted to say about developing countries was gathered together in the book he published in 1983, *Fiscal and Monetary Policies and Problems in Developing Countries*. This has recently been revised and translated into Chinese following Eshag's visit to China in 1988 and a sustained activity in bringing Chinese students to Oxford in recent years.

Development economics was one of the specialties of his teaching, so also was Keynesian and monetary analysis. He imparted to his students the ability to organise their thoughts and, for all his own convictions, did not indoctrinate. He held the Keynesian corner in the Economics sub-faculty while the tide of his colleagues' opinion took a monetarist, micro-economic and mathematical turn, against all of which he vociferously protested. This did not lead to any more resignations or expulsions, merely to affectionate tolerance, epitomised by one colleague who remarked after a meeting: "The Assyrian came down like a wolf on the fold."

Eshag contributed newspaper articles on economics right up to this year, expressing dismay about the direction being taken by New Labour. Shortly before his death he was thinking of writing against the privatisation of the London Underground.

In 1966, he had set out his views in a tract entitled *Present System of Trade and Payments versus Full Employment and Welfare State*. This illustrates not only the issues about which he cared passionately, but also the difficulty he had for many years with the correct placing of the definite article in English. This was a topic on which he was willing to take advice, and he did also speak Assyrian, Persian, French, Spanish and Russian – a global man with global concerns.

For all his aggressive manner, he was a kind and caring friend, brother and mentor, affectionate and sentimental behind an assertive exterior. His hospitality in Wadham was notable for the Assyrian cuisine and the caviar he served amid his collection of fine Persian carpets. He also raised money from the Iranian royal family to endow a new library in the college.

For most of his years at Oxford, Eprime Eshag was also an unrepentant man of many girlfriends. He completed his settling down in Oxford by marrying a fellow economist, Linda Lewis, in 1982. Until his short final illness they lived in the north Oxford home that he had named after his birthplace.

HEATHER JOSHI

Eprime Eshag, economist: born Urmia, Iran 6 November 1918; married 1992 Linda Lewis; died Oxford 24 November 1998.



The Keynesian corner

# Aisha Abdul-Rahman

ASHA ABDUL-RAHMAN was Egypt's leading female Islamic writer and scholar. She was unusual in being a women's rights advocate who adhered to Islamic philosophy – which is often interpreted as anti-women. She leaves some 40 books on Islamic scripture, a body of literary criticism; a dozen novels and short-story anthologies; as well as hundreds of research papers, magazine articles and newspaper columns.

She enjoyed a 60-year career as a columnist, starting in 1937 when, as a 24-year-old undergraduate, she joined *Al-Ahram*, then as now the Middle East's oldest and best-known Arabic daily. Abdul-Rahman adopted a subtle style: she didn't join women's groups or take part in feminist marches, yet her writing and lectures in support of sexual equality enlightened many young Egyptian women in their struggle.

She was in harmony with the early Egyptian feminist movement that reached a political peak during the 1919 revolution against the British military presence and Ottoman influence. In her last published interview earlier this year she called for the re-evaluation of Egypt's feminist movement, accusing it of "wasting its energy on a war against the other sex".

She often covered her head with a scarf, yet didn't encourage other women to do so. Instead she advocated choice for the individual, unusually among Islamic writers who so often follow the totalitarian concept that Islam is not just a faith but a way of life. She rejected the idea propagated by the (male) Muslim clergy that women are inferior. She often tackled daring subjects which her fellow writers – all men – steered clear of. Her excellent study of the women in the life of the prophet Mohamed is a case in point.

As with her contemporary Soheir El-Qalamawy, who presented *Sheherazade*, the heroine of *One Thousand and One Nights*, as a role-model for modern women because she won her struggle by educating men rather than fighting them, Abdul-Rahman's feminist examples came from the classical works of literature of the early Islamic empire. One example was her celebrated 1950 study of the 10th-century *Risalat al-Ghuphran* ("The Mission of Remission") by the poet-philosopher Abulala el-Mearri, which is believed to be the basis of Dante's *Divina Commedia*.

Abdul-Rahman would strip classical works to the bone before adding contemporary flesh to present a subtle feminist message of equality and role models. Her works included a modern reading of the Koran, which Muslims believe is the word of God. This was a daring challenge to the patriarchal Islamic establishment who usually condemn even men who touch on the subject as blasphemous. But Abdul-Rahman's clever style of philosophy disarmed her would-be critics.

She was born in 1913, in the Nile Delta town of Damietta, to a conservative father who taught at a theology institute attached to the ancient Al-Azhar Islamic University (part of the official Muslim Church; its ruling reaching beyond Egypt's borders). Her great-grandfather was the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, the equivalent of Archbishop of Canterbury in the Church of England.

While left-wing and secular feminists in Alexandria and Cairo became active suffrage campaigners in the years after the First World War, Abdul-Rahman, isolated in her home town and by strict religious family pressure, stayed at home for her primary and secondary education. Her father, in her own words,



She often covered her head with a scarf, yet didn't encourage other women to do so. Unusually, she advocated choice for the individual

belonged to a generation who "did not like women, and was against the idea of girls leaving the sanctuary of the home to attend school".

She also acquired a couple of diplomas by correspondence, including in 1929 the first teacher's qualification awarded to a woman by the conservative Al-Azhar University, which only allowed women on

the campus some 35 years later. Finally, at the age of 21, she began to attend King Faud University (which in 1954 changed its name to Cairo University), where she read Islamic history and Arabic literature.

Abdul-Rahman's early years of struggle for her right to education forced her to acquire scholarly discipline. Her writing was always objective, respecting the right of others to differ.

Her first published article, in a local paper in 1935, dealt with the social disadvantages of Egyptian peasants, and outraged her family. But her grandfather encouraged her to publish two other pieces in the *Al-Nahda al-Nesaeiyah* ("Female Renaissance" magazine) under the pen-name Bint el Shate, "child of the shore" – her birthplace was the shore of Damietta where the eastern branch of the Nile opens to the Mediterranean. She used the name Bint el Shate for the rest of her life. She went on to edit *Al-Nahda al-Nesaeiyah* while still at university.

Two years after beginning to write for the prestigious *Al-Ahram*, in 1938, Abdul-Rahman graduated. The editor, Antoine el-Gamilé, placed her desk in his own office, since she was the only woman – apart from his secretary – on the entire staff. Within a few years she had become a household name.

Her literary criticism was remarkably objective for a scholar of Islamic teaching. Publishers and authors feared her sharp pen, which showed no mercy as it attacked nepotism and sexist and reactionary writers. As a parliamentary sketchwriter she managed to upset a number of cabinet ministers during the multi-party liberal democratic system which ended with Nasser's military coup in 1952. But she remained attached to academe, gaining her masters degree in 1941

and her PhD in 1951, both in early Islamic literature.

When Nasser's military government, which nationalised the national press, banned the holding of two jobs, she chose the post she had occupied since 1962 as a professor of Arabic and Islamic studies at Ain Shams University in Cairo. However, Nasser's friend Mohamed Haikal, the editor of *Al-Ahram*, managed to retain her as a columnist and consultant for its highly regarded weekly literary review.

She was one of a handful who escaped the institutionalised censorship of Nasser's dictatorship. She was also awarded a number of state literary and academic awards under three different regimes.

At her funeral in Cairo, Egypt's great novelist and Nobel prizewinner Naguib Mahfouz recalled how he was impressed by her first novel, *The Sinned Woman* (1953). Later he turned it into a screenplay for the film-maker Salah Abu Sleif, the Egyptian cinema's father of realism. Like her other works, the story touched upon social injustices and the suffering of women, especially in the semi-feudal countryside.

Aisha Abdul-Rahman was married to another great scholar, the contemporary Islamic philosopher Sheikh Amin el-Khouli, who supervised her masters studies. She called him "my soul mate" and "the other part of my spiritual being". He died in 1973.

ADEL DARWISH

Aisha Abdul-Rahman, Islamic scholar and writer: born Damietta, Egypt 18 November 1913; Head of Arabic and Islamic studies, Ain Shams University 1972; married 1947 Amin el-Khouli (died 1973; one son, one daughter, and one son deceased); died Cairo 1 December 1998.

# Kavi Pradeep

KAVI PRADEEP was the writer of hugely popular patriotic songs which drove the British colonial government to distraction, forcing him to go underground during the freedom movement in the Forbes.

More than a decade after independence, in 1962, Pradeep wrote the song "Aaye mere watan ke logo" ("Come my countrymen"), which helped to instill a sense of national pride after India's humiliating defeat by the Chinese army over a territorial dispute, when the entire country was overwhelmed by a sense of ennuil and loss of prestige. It moved millions, including the prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, to tears. Pradeep donated the royalties from this song – which is frequently heard even today at private and official gatherings – to the ministry of defence.

In a career spanning over five decades Pradeep wrote nearly 1,700 songs, hymns and fiery, nationalistic poems including the lyrics for some 85 films, many of them box-office hits because of his contribution. But it was for his patriotic songs like "Door hai duniya walon... Hindustan hamara hai" ("Go away outsiders, India is ours"), influenced by militant freedom fighters such as Bhagat Singh and Chandrashekar Azad who were responsible for assassinating British officials, that Pradeep was best known.

During the Quit India movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi against the colonial government in 1942, Pradeep, by then an established film songwriter in Bollywood, India's film capital city of Bombay, wrote a string of nationalistic songs in films like *Kismet* ("Fate") that became instant hits and infuriated the British who considered them seditious. Although warrants were issued for his arrest, Pradeep managed to evade detention.

Born Ramchandra Barayanji Dwivedi in 1915 into a middle-class Brahmin family in the small central Indian town of Badnagar, in Madhya Pradesh state, he changed his name to Pradeep (meaning light) and moved to Bombay in 1939 after graduating from Lucknow University in the north. Pradeep made his debut as a lyricist in the film *Kangan* ("Gold Bangle"), which established his credentials as a popular songwriter.

After a string of successful hits, in 1958 he was honoured by the record company His Master's Voice who produced an album containing 13 of his songs; three years later he won several awards including Best Film Song Lyricist. Soon after he was made Rashtrapati, or Poet Laureate, after which he became known as Kavi ("poet") Pradeep. He was prolific till the mid-1980s, when old age and a newer crop of songwriters more interested in gimmickry than substance forced him into retirement, virtually forgotten by a once adoring public.

Last year Kavi Pradeep was remembered again when Lata Mangeshkar, India's best known singer, announced that he had won a 100,000 rupee award (around £1,430) for his contribution to Indian cinema and went personally to his house to hand over the money. Thereafter, the government conferred Pradeep Phalke Award for a lifetime of achievement in films, which coincided fittingly with India's 50th anniversary of independence.

KULDIP SINGH

Ramchandra Baryanji Dwivedi (Kavi Pradeep), songwriter and poet: born Badnagar, Madhya Pradesh 6 February 1915; married (two daughters); died Bombay 11 December 1998.



Eshag

## Robert Marasco



James Mason stars in Sidney Lumet's film *Child's Play*, 1972, based on Marasco's 1970 play

ONE OF the most exciting things that can occur in the theatre is the unexpected triumph of a new play by an unknown author, and that happened on the night of 17 November 1970 when Robert Marasco's chilling *Child's Play* opened at the Royale Theatre on Broadway. The story of demonically sinister doings at a Catholic boys' school, it had the first-night audience calling for the author at its finish, received a rave review in *The New York Times*, and went on to win Tonys for its director, its designer and two of its actors, Fritz Weaver and Ken Howard. Its success enabled Marasco to give up his job as a classics teacher to concentrate on writing, though none of his subsequent work enjoyed as much success as *Child's Play*.

Born in the Bronx, New York, in 1936, Marasco was educated at Regis High School and Fordham University. A classical scholar, he became a teacher of languages at Regis, but was anxious to make clear that his play was not based on reality, naming as his inspiration two sources - a newspaper clipping about "a teacher who gave his kids some work to do and then jumped out of a window" and the Swedish film *Hets* (Frenzy, 1944), written by Ingmar Bergman, which featured "a sadistic Latin teacher".

Originally entitled *The Dark*, the play was produced by David Merrick, at the time the most powerful and prolific producer on Broadway, and directed by Joseph Hardy, whose imaginative staging, with several well-paced shock effects, was generally regarded as a key factor in the play's success, along with Joe Meizner's superb scenery and lighting - the play was set in a starkly Gothic faculty room with dark wood and mullion windows.

When Hardy and the author had first met, Hardy asked Marasco what his aim was in writing the play. "To scare the hell out of everybody" was the reply, to which Hardy responded, "You're on." Hardy then suggested extensive rewriting, including a new ending, and guided by the experienced director the author rewrote nearly half the play. The work paid off with the triumphant first night and reviews which, though mixed, included a rave from the *New York Times* critic Clive Barnes who described it as "genuine Grand Guignol theatre" that "will thrill audiences for a long time to come". John J. O'Connor in *The Wall Street Journal* countered by commenting,

Instead of building to a suspenseful breaking point, it runs disastrously downhill with a conclusion that attempts to be profound but is virtually meaningless.

Though audiences enjoyed the play, the most often-heard comment as they left the theatre afterwards was "Did I miss something?", and the play's weaknesses were seemingly more apparent when it opened in London, where, directed by Hardy, it had only

a brief run at the Queen's Theatre in 1971.

Paramount, who only two years earlier had made huge profits with the diabolically themed *Rosemary's Baby*, acquired the film rights and agreed to let Merrick make his debut as a movie producer on the film.

It was a troubled production from the

Lumet was signed as director, in part because he had established a good rapport with Brando while filming *The Fugitive Kind*. But when Brando asked for script revisions ("he saw the holes in the story and lack of logic," said Lumet) the cost-conscious Merrick objected and Brando withdrew from the film to be replaced by Robert Preston.

shame the film was given such scant distribution because it carried with it a great performance by Mason as the persecuted Latin master suspected of paranoia.

In 1973 Marasco published his first novel, *Burnt Offerings*, another sinister tale of a family who find that the house they have rented for the summer is haunted. The author later stated that he originally had thought of himself as a comedy writer, and said of *Burnt Offerings*, "I thought it would be a black comedy, but it just came out black." In 1976 it was filmed with Bette Davis and Oliver Reed in the cast but was considered a turgid example of an overworked genre. "I said I'd never do another horror film after *Baby Jane*," commented Davis, "and here I am in the biggest horror of them all!"

Marasco also wrote a novel, *Parlor Games* (1979), and several unproduced screenplays. Before his death, he had completed a new play, *Our Solly*.

TOM VALLANCE

Robert Marasco, playwright: born New York 22 September 1936; died Manhasset, New York 6 December 1998.

When Joseph Hardy first met Marasco, he asked him what his aim was in writing *Child's Play*. 'To scare the hell out of everybody,' said Marasco

start. Both Alfred Hitchcock and Joe Mankiewicz were interested in directing it, but the studio's production chief Robert Evans vetoed them as "over the hill". Merrick then suggested William Friedkin, also vetoed by Evans (Friedkin instead accepted Fox's offer to direct *The French Connection*). With the strong pairing of Marlon Brando and James Mason cast in the leads, Sidney

## GAZETTE

### BIRTHDAYS

Mr David Abell, former chairman and chief executive, Suter plc, 56; Mr Roy Anderson, chairman emeritus, Lockheed Corporation, 78; Mr Michael Bogdanov, Artistic Director, English Shakespeare Company, 60; Professor Stuart Checkley, psychiatrist, 53; Mr Dave Clark, drummer and founder of the Dave Clark Five, 56; Professor Ivor Crewe, Vice-Chancellor, Essex University, 58; Lord Croham, former Chairman, Guinness Peat group, 81; Mr Geoffrey Davies, actor, 57; Mr Frankie Dettori, jockey, 28; Sir Graham Dorcay, Bailiff of Guernsey, and a Judge of the Court of Appeal of Jersey, 66; Air Marshal Sir John Fitzpatrick, 69; Miss Ida Haendel, violinist, 74; Mr Gunnar Häggfö, diplomat, 94; Sir Henry Hardman, former senior civil servant, 93; Mr Oliver Heald MP, 44; Mr Carl Hooper, cricketer, 32; Mr Kevin Hughes MP, an Assistant Whip, 46; Mr Don Johnson, actor, 49; Mr Joe Jordan, footballer, 47; General Sir Frank Kitson, former Commander-in-Chief, UK Land Forces, 72; The Rev Dr Una Kroll, Deacon of the Church in Wales, 73;

Mr David McMurray, Headmaster, Oundle School, 61; Mr Oscar Niemeyer, architect, 91; Miss Edna O'Brien, novelist, 62; Mr Michael Pearl, ambassador to Fiji and British High Commissioner to Kiribati, Nauru and Tuvalu, 55; Mr Brian Roper, Vice-Chancellor, University of North London, 49; Miss Irene Salter, former Headmistress, Durham High School for Girls, 82; Mr Austin Savage, hockey player, 57; Commandant Anne Spencer, former Director, Women's Royal Naval Service, 60; Professor Sir John Friedrick Groffend, classical scholar, 1953; Sir George Cayley, aeronautics pioneer, 1857; Chief Sitting Bull, Sioux Indian leader, killed 1890; Francisco Tarrega, composer, 1909; Thomas Wright "Fats", jazz pianist, 1943; Arthur Llewellyn Jones Machen, writer, 1947; Wolfgang Pauli, physicist, 1958; Charles Laughton, actor, 1962; Walter Elias Disney, cartoonist and creator of Mickey Mouse, 1966.

### ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Nero, Roman emperor, AD 37; David Teniers the Younger, painter, 1610; George Romney, portrait painter, 1734; Charles Cowden Clarke, Shakespearean scholar, 1787; Jerome Bonaparte, King of Westphalia, youngest brother of Napoleon, 1784; Henry Fothergill Chorley, music critic, librettist and writer, 1808; Alexandre-Gustave Eiffel, engineer, 1832; Sir

Alfred East, painter and etcher, 1849; Antoine-Henri Becquerel, physicist, 1852; Dr Lazarus Ludovic Zamenhof, oculist and creator of Esperanto, 1859; Maxwell Anderson, playwright, 1888; Jean Paul Getty, multimillionaire, 1892; General Sir Miles Christopher Dempsey, 1896.

Deaths: Haakon IV, King of Norway, 1263; Jan Vermeer (Jan van der Meer van Delft), painter, 1675; Isaac Walton, author of *The Compleat Angler*, 1683; Giuseppe Bossi, painter, 1816; Georg Friedrich Grotend, classical scholar, 1853; Sir George Cayley, aeronautics pioneer, 1857; Chief Sitting Bull, Sioux Indian leader, killed 1890; Francisco Tarrega, composer, 1909; Thomas Wright "Fats", jazz pianist, 1943; Arthur Llewellyn Jones Machen, writer, 1947; Wolfgang Pauli, physicist, 1958; Charles Laughton, actor, 1962; Walter Elias Disney, cartoonist and creator of Mickey Mouse, 1966.

On this day: the first meteorological recordings were begun in Tuscany, 1654; the states of the American union ratified the Bill of Rights,

1791; the remains of Emperor Napoleon were interred at Les Invalides, Paris, 1840; the Piccadilly Underground station in London was opened, 1906; the seven-masted schooner *Thomas W. Lawson* was lost in the English Channel, 1907; the Battle of Verdun ended, with 700,000 dead (338,000 German, 364,000 Allied soldiers), 1916; the first television play in Britain, *Bax and Cox*, was transmitted, 1928; the Commonwealth of the Philippines was inaugurated, 1935; the premiere of the film *Gone With the Wind* took place at Atlanta, Georgia, 1939; the General Assembly of the United Nations voted to admit the Chinese People's Republic, 1961; in Israel, Adolf Eichmann was found guilty of crimes against the Jewish people, 1961; the first production of the musical show *Charlie Girl* took place in London, 1965; food riots broke out in Poland, 1970; John Paul Getty III was released by kidnappers who had held him for five months and cut off his ear, 1973.

Today is the Feast Day of St Mary of Rosa, St Nino, St Paul of Latros and St Valerian.

### LECTURES

National Gallery: Rebecca Lyons, "Mirrors (iii): Rubens, *The Judgement of Paris*", 1pm.  
Victoria and Albert Museum: Clare Ford Willie, "Rococo Portraiture", 2pm.  
British Museum: Delia Pemberton, "The Cosmic Buddha", 11.30am.  
National Portrait Gallery: John Cooper, "Von Herkomer's Portraits of Lords Kitchener and Baden-Powell", 1.10pm.  
Wallace Collection, London W1: David Edge, "Arms and Armour", 1pm.  
Leicester University: Professor Connor Duggan, "Personality Disorder: the proper study of psychiatry?", 5.30pm.

### DINNERS

The Maccabaeans: Sir John Balcombe, President of the Maccabaeans, presided at the annual Chanukah Dinner held yesterday evening at the Great Hall, Lincoln's Inn, WC2. Mr Nicholas Snowden was the guest speaker. Sir Ian Gainsford and Lady Mary Marre also spoke.

### CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

## SOCIOLOGICAL NOTES

ROGER KEIL

## Mayhem and myth in the City of Angels

IS THIS the future in store for all of us? After the Los Angeles urban rebellion in 1992, most critical analyses of what had happened focused on the explosive urban cauldron that many saw developing in Southern California at least since the 1960s.

Writers pointed out that the City of Angels was a foreboding of the future of all cities - and metaphorically also of humankind. Los Angeles was portrayed as an ungovernable gangland where civility had either never existed or had been destroyed by a sequence of global economic restructuring and catastrophic events. At the opposite end of the spectrum were those "boosters" of Los Angeles who had made the city "LA's Place" with the Olympics of 1984 and a boom that was built on foreign investment and cheap labour.

Following the events of 1992, these boosters did not tire of putting on a happy face where others saw murder and mayhem. Their task was to "Rebuild LA", as one organisation that rose from the ashes of the riots was called. Their medium was denial.

Related to these oppositional urban myths, there is yet another set of stories, which paint Los Angeles either as the wallflower of American history - misunderstood and maligned - or as the "first American city" and the model of all urban settlement as we know it

today. Caught between the dystopian view of some and the Utopian idea of others, Los Angeles became the torn image of all 20th-century urbanism, and to some "the capital of the 21st century". What is wrong with these pictures? Of course, it is difficult to deny that LA is an unusually violent place full of social and economic contradiction, marred by injustice and conflict. It is also a place where the middle classes have found their natural habitat in what they conceive as the end of history: a good place, sheltered by obscene income differentials and police power.

Yet Los Angeles is also the site of a contradictory civility which is captured by neither of the narratives presented so far. What is missing from most portrayals of Los Angeles is the story of the "other LA", of the majority working-class and people of colour communities where an alternative, and sometimes insurgent, civil society has taken hold. This civil society of everyday social activism has many unseen faces: heroic struggles to keep production places open in the face of globalisation; to save neighbourhoods from the bulldozer; to create environmental justice; and to create local government exploring pathways of economic redistribution and social diversity.

In order to gaze into our collective urban future, let us entertain the stories of those

Angelenos whose lives are on the line in a process called world city formation. In this convulsive phase of urbanisation, the largest post-war industrial company town in the world, built on autos, aerospace, real estate and Hollywood, was transformed into a globalised megalopolis with a Third World proletariat, a high-tech veneer and a simulated nature.

Let us look closely at their struggles in a sea of adversity where it takes a special effort to stay afloat. Let us look at the alternative proposals made for living in the multi-cultural metropolis of the future. Out of this changed perspective, a different Los Angeles emerges: a Los Angeles of opportunity to create an everyday insurgency against the ravages of globalisation, against racism and the injustice of immigrant urbanity, and versus the threats of a society without a safety net. In the stories of a Los Angeles where social struggle is the connecting thread, a possible future emerges for us all: a future of an urbanism based on democratic governance, economic justice and grassroots multi-culturalism.

Perhaps this is a future we are willing to learn from Los Angeles.

Roger Keil is the author of *Los Angeles: globalization, urbanization and social struggles* (John Wiley, £17.99)

## Property to be valued at time of gift

### TUESDAY LAW REPORT 15 DECEMBER 1998

Ingram and another v Commissioners of Inland Revenue  
*House of Lords (Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Steyn, Lord Hoffmann, Lord Clyde and Lord Hutton) 10 December 1998*

WHERE A lifetime transfer of the freehold interest in property was made to trustees subject to leases in favour of the donor, the property was not subject to a reservation of benefit within the terms of section 102 of the Finance Act 1986. Accordingly, on the death of the donor within seven years of the gift, the property would be valued for the purposes of inheritance tax at the time of the gift, and not at the time of the donor's death.

The House of Lords allowed the appeal of the executors of Lady Ingram against the decision of the Court of Appeal that inheritance tax was payable on the value at the date of her death of property she had given in trust for her children and grandchildren.

On 29 March 1987 Lady Ingram conveyed property to her son, to hold as her nominee. On 30 March the solicitor granted her leases of different parts of the property for 20 years rent free. On 31 March the solicitor, at Lady Ingram's direction, conveyed the property, subject to the leases, to trustees to hold on trust for the benefit of her children and grandchildren.

Lady Ingram died less than seven years after the gift, which was thus not an exempt transfer under section 3A of the Inheritance Tax Act 1984. The Commissioners of Inland Revenue determined that section 102 of the Finance Act 1986 applied, and that the property would therefore be deemed to form part of Lady Ingram's estate at her death, and tax would be payable on its value at that time, rather than at the time of the gift. The value of the prop-

erty at the time of the death was, by reason of the sharp rise in property prices, much higher than in 1987.

Lady Ingram's executors appealed directly to the High Court. The judge found that the original grant of the leases had been invalid because a nominee could not grant a lease to himself. However, that did not mean that the leasehold interest which J had acquired against the trustees at the moment after the freehold had been transferred to them was a benefit reserved within section 102, since there had been no point of time at which the trustees and beneficiaries had held the property otherwise than subject to the leasehold interests.

The Court of Appeal, by a majority, held that it was conceptually impossible for a lease to come into existence until the lessor had acquired the freehold interest. It followed that

the gift must have been the unencumbered freehold interest and that the lease must have been a benefit reserved out of it. The executors appealed.

Robert Venables QC, Simon Tudge and Amanda Hardy (Charles Russell) for the executors; Edward Nugee QC and Michael Furness (Solicitor of Inland Revenue) for the Crown.

Lord Hoffmann said that "property" in section 102 of the Finance Act 1986 was not something which had physical existence like a house, but was rather a specific interest in that property, a legal construct, which could co-exist with other interests in the same physical object. The section did not therefore prevent people from deriving benefit from the object in which they had given away an interest: it applied only when they derived the benefit from that interest.

The policy of section 102 was to require people to define precisely the interests which they were giving away and the interests, if any, which they were retaining. Accepting that as the policy, there could be no doubt that the interest retained by Lady Ingram was a proprietary interest defined with the necessary precision.

Looking at the real nature of the transaction in the instant case there was no doubt that the trustees and beneficiaries had never at any time acquired the land free of Lady Ingram's leasehold interest. The need for a conveyance to be followed by a lease back was a mere matter of conveyancing form.

KATE O'HANLON  
Barrister

### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen meets a group of embroiderers, and views their ornaments on the Christmas Tree in the Picture Gallery at Buckingham Palace (the ornaments will then be put on view at the Victoria and Albert Museum, before being auctioned by

Phillips in aid of a children's charity). The Duke of Edinburgh, Master, Trinity House, attends a Service of Thanksgiving for the work of the Lighthouse Keepers over the centuries at St Olave's Church, London EC3, followed by a dinner for Lighthouse Keepers at Trinity House, London EC3. The Princess Royal, President, British Knitting and Clothing

Export Council, visits Duchamp, Warple Way, London W3; opens the Crown Street Surgery, London W3; as President, Save the Children Fund, attends the launch of the Millennium Award Scheme - Saying Power, at the Café Royal, London W1; and, as President, Animal Health Trust, attends their Christmas Event at Banqueting House,

London SW1. Princess Margaret, Patron Grosvenor Chapel Restoration Appeal, attends a Carol Concert in the Grosvenor Chapel, London W1, in aid of the Appeal and the Home Farm Trust. The Duke of Kent, Patron, Classic FM Charitable Trust, attends the Christmas Concert at Westminster Abbey, London SW1. Princess Alexandra, President,

attends a Christmas Carol Concert in aid of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund at St Paul's Cathedral, London EC4.



# Bring out your daughters



Time was when girls would rather die than party with Mum. Not now, though. As Ann Treneman told her daughter as she dragged her kicking and screaming into the night

**M**y editor says that I must go to a party with my 16-year-old daughter. I look at her as if she is crazy. The last party I went to with Gillian was nerve-racking. It is the only time that I have actually wanted to be name-tags, so I could just put "Under-Age" on hers. Perhaps this would have stopped all those men who kept asking her how "uni" was going. "GCSEs," I wanted to shout. "Not even A-levels! Too young!" Instead, of course, I smiled and waited for the drinks tray. The pattern was set. Gillian had a brilliant time. I did not.

My editor is not impressed. Daughters, she says, are the hot party accessory of the season. Who says? *Vogue*, as it turns out. "It will be fun," she tells me. "You will be just like Jerry Hall." Obviously, I say. Later I find myself saying to Gillian: "We will be just like Jerry Hall and her daughter Elizabeth." Gillian looks at me, turns on her heel, and walks into her room.

I take that as a "yes" and start organising. I suggest a literary soirée. "Salman Rushdie will be there," I say. "And maybe even Bob Geldof." Gillian looks at me, turns and walks into her room. Event after event receives this treatment. Finally I realise that only pop stars or supermodels will do. "What about the *Smash Hits* party?" I ask. "REALLY? YES! COOL!!!" she cries and runs into her room, only to return a minute later to ask whether she should cut all the Top Shop labels out of her clothes.

**Pre-party preparations**  
Sunday dawns, and the party mood is elusive. I have to fight the hordes at Sainsbury's as the only food in the house is a limp lettuce and some self-date-expired yoghurt. Plus I have to find a Christmas tree. I wonder briefly whether it would be easier to grow one myself. After a decade, I would never have to do this again. I rush around like a loony. Gillian tells me not to be late and asks if I'm wearing nail polish. At 1pm I drag out of the car the misshapen tree, which is already losing needles. By 1.30pm I am ready for the party, which I will have to attend without nail polish. Sadly.

I've asked Gillian to keep a diary. This is her first entry: "It's the day. I'm looking forward to it even if I'm going with my mum. The first thing

she said was 'Will Who?' The fact that she doesn't even know who Will Smith is leads me to believe I may have to spend the party telling her who they all are. Oh well. Better go, I've just smudged my nail polish!"

On the way, Gillian tells me that I cannot call her anything other than Gillian. No "honey-bun" or "darling" or "pumpkin". I tell her that I'm sure Jerry Hall does not have to operate under such instructions. Gillian tells me that her art teacher says that we should never compare ourselves to anyone, that each one of us is unique and that competition leads to unhappiness. This shuts me up.

**The party**  
The London Arena is full of kids dressed for a gym work-out. Gillian says we have to go to the loo and immediately heads for the men's. "Is it normal to go to the men's?" I ask, thinking of all those theatre intervals where all of us women wait, meekly, for half an hour while the men just whip in and out of their loo. "Oh, yes," she says. "Especially if there is a queue." Amazing. This is *Girl Power* in action.

The Arena is a zoo inside. "I may be the oldest person here," I say to Gillian. She looks around and says: "I may be the oldest person here." We sit or, more accurately, vibrate in our seats to the stomping of zillions of teenyboppers. Gillian stands up but doesn't jump up and down. Or scream. Thank God. She has to tell me who all the performers are. "B\*Witched," she writes on my pad, rolling her eyes. "Sive," she writes. Five of what? I ask. "THEM!" she shouts in my ear. I look. It's a group. I feel dreadful. This is middle age. I am not having fun.

Gillian is. "It's begun!" she writes. "There is non-stop screaming. Warm-up guys are whipping us into a frenzy. I'm trying to stay cool. TV madness begins. Every time the overhead camera sweeps over everyone screams, including me. Mum is looking very puzzled when she takes the stage. I start dancing. Mum is sitting down. I promptly stop. I feel a nightmare coming on."

My next memory is of hearing a voice that I recognise. "Meatloaf!" I shout. Gillian ignores me. "My Meatloaf!" I cry, seeing the man who always looks as if he is impersonating a refrigerator on stage. Gillian says she feels as if she is in the Twilight Zone. I have no idea what she is talking about. The photographer arrives to take our photo, which I

absolutely hate and which Gillian absolutely loves. She writes: "Everyone is rushing to stand next to me. Instant popularity at the flash of the button. I should always accessorise in this way. Photo-session continues while my favourite group comes on - Another Level. I nearly faint when I see Dane. How uncool am I?"

At the time I didn't realise why Gillian kept going on about going to another level. Now I know. Oh well, by this time the event had lapsed into one long screaming session. The boy groups are all wearing calf-length leather coats. Do they think they are in a James Bond movie? Or perhaps appearing with Sly and the Family Stone? One group wears all black, another all white. They walk around in a circle, their coats billowing.

Billie - whom I do recognise - is crowned the Princess of Pop. She is wearing a Heidi costume. Gillian is looking tired. I ask her if she is enjoying herself. She says that she hates Aqua-Yuck. My first thought is of toothpaste but by now I realise that this must be a band.

The party is saved when I hear a familiar tune. "Tragedy!" Seventies disco! YES! I jump out of my seat. I definitely know the hand-signals to this one. Or at least I know the hand-signals I learnt in 1979. I see from Gillian's diary that this was too much. "I am very embarrassed," she writes, "and hide it by swaying."

**The aftermath**  
We head to the car. Everyone is smiling, and wearing those shoes which appear to be attached to mini-trampolines. I am not smiling, because my head hurts. Gillian can have the last word. After all, it was her party. "It's all over! Mum looks like she's been through a nightmare. Everybody is screaming at the stars leaving in their limos. I'm not a fanatical person, so I walk to the car. I point out to Mum that Jerry Hall's kids never have to sit in the back and endure Marvin Gaye all the way home."



Above left: Goldie Hawn with her daughter Katie Hudson. Left: Ivana Trump and Ivanka



Above: Jerry Hall and Elizabeth Jagger. Below: Twiggy and Carly Whitney. All Action; Richard Young; FNP; Tom Craig



## When money's too tight to mention

Red phone bills and raised voices, but Ian's real problem is the nightlife - or lack of it. By Cayte Williams



**LEONA**  
studying Maths



**RACHAEL**  
studying Art History



**ROSIE**  
studying French



**DAVID**  
studying Management



**TASH**  
studying Management



**ALISTAIR**  
studying Management



**DANI**  
studying Biology



**IAN**  
studying Geography



**ROBBIE**  
studying Economics

THE M-WORD has been a pre-occupation with the students this week. Money, the stuff that makes the world go round, is spinning a bit out of control. For a start, they haven't paid the telephone bill and the red version's been sitting on the hall table for a dangerous amount of time.

It's not that no one wants to pay it. It's just a case of high-litner-paralysis. As anyone who's ever lived with nine people and one telephone will know, working out the bill is horrendous. It's a laborious process where each person highlights their calls, initials them and argues about the ones left over. The process can take months.

Ian, by sheer force of will, has got most of the house to work out what they owe and write their cheques. "It's only Leona who hasn't, and I've told her enough times," he says. "As soon as she works out what she owes, we can send off the cheques."

Ian, the no-nonsense Yorkshire boy, has had rather a week of straight-talking. Not only has he told Leona off but he and Rachael have not been seeing eye-to-eye. "About two days ago I'd just come back from work and she was in the living room going on and on about the landlord," he explains. "I started shouting at her and stuff. I said: 'I've got enough to worry about, and where I live is the last thing on my mind.' The house isn't bad, you know, but now it's all become worse."

The landlord seems to be getting his revenge on the stu-

### THIS STUDENT LIFE



WEEK 8 AT THE MANCHESTER STUDENT HOUSE

dents, the only way that landlords can. "He's sending the estate agent around to check the state of the place, and if it's not right, he's going to charge us £100 for professional cleaners," says Ian. "And now the council tax people have been around because he's graced us up. He was so nice at the beginning but now he's going against everything we do. I know Rachael had good intentions, but she took it too far." The irony of it all is not wasted on Rachael, who only really wanted value for money. "I'm thinking of moving out," she says, "but I wouldn't go until everyone was safe here." Ian is full of remorse. "I really regretted the argument afterwards," he admits, "and Rachael's been very touchy



Saturday night in Peruvia: 'Cheesy music for rich folk,' says Ian Martin Rickett

since." Everyone else has kept their distance from the landlord problem as they know Rachael is doing her best, but no one feels the pressures of earning money more than Ian. Still, a nice little group out on Saturday night was a great comfort. Peruvia, Manchester's swankiest club, proved that money might buy you a nice house, but it can't furnish you with taste in music. "It was cheesy music for rich people," says Ian in disgust. "I'd never been to a place like that before. It was more like a hotel than a nightclub." David even dyed his hair orange and sprayed it with glitter, but then he was expecting to have a little more fun than the Gucci-clad crowd allowed. "It was ridiculously posy,"

he exclaims. "You could smell the money. I'd never go back again. The blokes all looked like body builders, the women were gorgeous, and the music was rubbish." Peruvia is home to Manchester United footballers, models and soap stars. As far as our students are concerned, they can keep it. Unfortunately, there's not much choice in Manchester. It was the clubbing legend, The Hacienda, that gave the city its reputation as a nightclub capital, but now there are few good places to go. "That is because of the Moss Side and Cheatham Hill gangs," explains Robbie. "The gang culture got to the clubs which were then closed down because of guns and drugs. Now everyone goes to Liver-

pool, Leeds and Sheffield. Manchester still has a reputation as club heaven, but it's just not true any more."

In fact, the city is crying out for somewhere decent that doesn't cost an arm and a leg. Which leads us on to Dave's new project. Like Alistair, he's turning into a Student Entrepreneur. "My friend Tom and I have formed a club promotions company called Cosmic Hole," he says proudly, "and we're doing our first themed night at Elemental, one of the few new clubs in Manchester, on Wednesday. It's called Mistletoe Madness and vodka, peach schnapps, Bacardi and tequila will all be a pound."

Everyone hopes it will be a success. At least he'll be quicker at paying the phone bill.

### THE JOYS OF MODERN LIFE

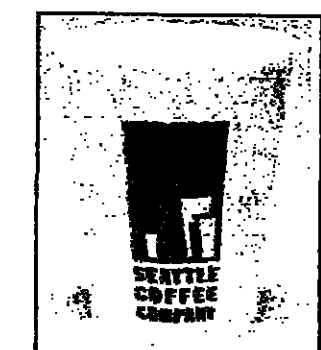
24. COFFEE BY LAURA THOMPSON

I CAN go on the equivalent of a pub crawl, in which caffeine replaces alcohol as the wicked stimulant, by walking the short distance between my flat and Notting Hill Gate. Start at Cullens with two nice, smooth café lattes, followed up by an espresso at Maison Blanc. Now on to the heavy stuff.

At Starbucks, a tall, skinny capp with extra froth and cinnamon topping. At Coffee Republic, a grande iced semi-mochoacino plus shot of caramel syrup. Finally, at the Seattle Coffee House, a triple goliath macchiato with banana-flavoured Nesquik and a cocktail umbrella. Here, shuddering like a plugged-in Black and Decker, I raise my brimming paper cup and toast those brave pioneers who believed that not everyone in Britain is obsessed with PG Tips.

It is hard, for a coffee-lover, to imagine life without these magnificent establishments. yet only a few years ago a cappuccino was regarded as a suspect foreign confection and the British drank Mellow Birds for their eleventh hours.

Those were the days of "coffee shops", in which the coffee tasted of groats, of a half-teaspoon of Nescafé dissolved in parboiled water. of liquidised Terry's All Gold coffee creams mixed with gravy granules...



Then, of course, you went abroad. On the Champs-Élysées you tasted rich, hot brews, dark and full-bodied as Beatrice Dalle. In the Piazza Navona you played excitedly with the foam on a cappuccino; at Florian's you

swooned at the wonderfully adult milkshake that is the café latte. In New York, you drank the most delicious concoction known to man: the iced and creamy frappuccino. Admittedly each of these cost about a fiver, but my God, was it worth it. You returned to Britain sneering and despairing.

Of course, sophisticated have always complained about our coffee. In literature, cosmopolitan types such as Hercule Poirot bewail the "muddy liquid" offered to them. But people put up with it, presumably because tea was the stuff of life and coffee merely an exotic aside; the idea that it might taste sublime was unknown.

Closer ties with Europe, foreign travel and Frasier have all played their part in giving me my morning café crawl. Nor is this just a city phenomenon; the best cappuccino in Europe - and I write as an independent expert, with all the pitters to prove it - can be drunk at Luigi's of Leighton Buzzard. So why does coffee on the Eurostar taste like something made by Mrs Overall?



Since 1972, the Alternative Miss World has mocked the original pageant, while celebrating the brave, the bizarre and the beautiful. It's an extravaganza of style, sex and cheap sensation. And Judith Palmer took part

# More wardrobe than Ikea

I've spent 300 hours making these," sighs Burnel, trying to ease a 20-ft padded appliqué Christmas pudding over his head. "Now I've got flu, and a little piece of glitter stuck under my eyelid," he adds tearfully. "There's just no space, backstage, and by the time you've squeezed past everyone to get on stage, all your costumes are completely ruined."

Last year, Burnel (known among the world of clubland costumiers as "Transformer") achieved a certain notoriety as Miss Moneybags, standing against Martin Bell and Neil Hamilton at Tatton in the general election. Tonight, he's squished into the vestry of a high camp neo-Gothic church in east London, in the hope of retaining his title as the reigning Alternative Miss World.

Created by Andrew Logan, a sculptor-jeweller, in 1972, the Alternative Miss World Contest is an occasional spectacle of costumely ingenuity and performing brilliance, teasing out the talents of drag queens, artists, fashion designers and sundry folk of large personality in a gigantic, surreal art event said to have been modelled more on Crufts than on the Eric and Julia beauty pageant. That didn't stop the original Miss World organisation from serving Logan an injunction in 1979. Lord Denning wisely decided in Logan's favour, suggesting it was unlikely that anyone was in any danger of confusing the two events.

Logan's ruder, spikier and wittier alternative does, however, share the same sections of daywear, swimwear and eveningwear, with catwalk promenades plus personality interview. Open to contestants of either gender, it's been won only once by a woman (Jeany Runacre, Miss National Geographic, 1986). It has, though, been won by a robot (Bruce Lacey's Miss Rosa Bosom, 1985), and, in 1975, by Derek Jarman as Miss Crêpe Suzette.

"It's to do with what you can create, rather than how you were created," explains a first-time contestant, Piers Atkinson (assistant to designer Zandra Rhodes in his day job). "You can take beauty into your own hands," he explains, unsnarling a clump of black wig from his severe, plug-hole-shaped swimwear outfit. "I presented the orb to the winner last year," he confides, describing Burnel's previous flaming triumph as Joan of Arc, "so I'm hoping I took off that energy."

"Get back!" screeches a stage manager, grabbing a megaphone. "Big cossie coming through!" Num-



Amy Lamé, and contestants (including, bottom right, Judith Palmer) at the Alternative Miss World

ber 18, gold-painted Miss Natasha Narcotica (Anna Zolotuhina, a young theatrical costume maker) is attempting to negotiate the cage of her huge wicker crinoline tail through a very small door. The wafts of frankincense billowing round her opium-poppo-decorated dragon's head have stopped her noticing the twin obstacles up ahead of a Mad Max warrior wielding a pointy metal weapon (made, I hazard to deduce, from a Philippe Starck lemon squeezer) and an act-

ivated gas-powered flame thrower. Number two, Haick, an exquisitely delicate lad from Armenia, is getting twitchy. Slinky metal shower-hosing, entwined with roses, encircles his head like a bridal coronet, and his fragile wire mesh gown floats off into a 10-ft train. The slender yellow feathers glued to his eyelids quiver in anticipation, and he gesticulates frantically to his attendant, who rushes over to give him a spray of Guerlain. Around his throat hangs a necklace of silver roubles

dated 1861. "Imagine how special I feel, walking around with something of such value," he whispers. Crispy, a tall, skinny Tellytubby dressed in a yellow rubber, flare-cuffed, all-in-one bodysuit, canters past on his flowery scooter, almost crashing into the chain-mailed roller-skating Miss Bermuda team. "I thought it would be much more cut-throat, with everyone concentrated on their own thing," says Rochelle, steadying her towering raspberry ripple Mr Whippy pom-

padour. "But everyone's so helpful, and having a laugh. This old lady doesn't speak English," she says, pointing at a grinning 75-year-old woman with a quiff in a frothy ball-gown. "But we've been smiling." "It's still every bit as chaotic as the first one," explains Logan's sister Janet, who has entered each of the 10 AMW contests (Logan's mum is always among the judges). Tonight's overall theme is "The Void", and Janet has come in purdah as Miss MT Place. "At first it

was a matter of what you could do with what you had in your wardrobe, and a packet of crêpe paper. In 1981 we were in the Grand Hall in Olympia, when the contest was won by Miss Aldershot (Michael Haynes). He was supported by the BBC Chorus and the band of the Irish Guards. And now, of course, there are all these Russians..."

There are five Russian entrants (plus one Finn and one Irishman) among the 22 contestants. Like everyone else, they are responsible for all their own travel and costume costs. This unlikely invasion is largely due to the prior success of Andrey Bartenev, a Siberian avant-garde artist (and reigning runner-up). Bartenev, who does not believe in travelling light, has come with eight wooden crates full of giant papier-mâché wearable objects. Miss Help Russia is, like many, no single person, but a team tableau. Beachwear involves four rigid 8-ft mummy-cases, painted like demonic jelly babies and stuffed with bouncing claustrophobes; for daywear a sublimely gorgeous 24-year-old cartoonist called Volodya is strapped on all fours into a scale model of the Kremlin; when eveningwear calls, Bartenev himself staggers out under a blue-and-red, butterfly-winged construction, studded with cigarette-puffing lips.

"To work with Bartenev, you need courage, happiness and a clear mind," grins Volodya, as a buckle catches his nipple. The costumes are hysterically funny and radiantly colourful, but have not been selected for ease of movement, and need on-stage helpers to stop them from toppling over. This is why I now find myself prancing up the runway towards the judges (who include Brian Eno and Anita Roddick) trussed up in a blue Cellophane cosmonaut outfit, wielding a heavy, star-topped staff in one hand while supporting Bartenev's cod-piece in the other.

Dignified, dukesy, dressed in his traditional half-male, half-female robes, Logan brings on the shimmering crown jewels... and awards them to the grinning 4-ft-tall 75-year-old from Moscow, Miss Pami Bronya. "I was looking for something sexy and funny at the same time - that's the biggest turn-on of all," explains the judge, Maggi Hambling. "But that extraordinary grande dame signified everything best in the human spirit. That's what the Alternative Miss World is all about. Joy."

The next Alternative Miss World is due in 2001



Emma Boom

## Sadly second rate

### CLASSICAL

CHARLES IVES  
BOURNEMOUTH SO  
POOLE

THE INDISPOSITION of Kees Bakels, the Dutch chief guest conductor of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra for the last 10 years, created more of a problem than usual in Poole on Wednesday, since the programme - repeated in Exeter and Portsmouth on Thursday and Friday - included Charles Ives's *Second Symphony*.

This early, delightful amalgam of Brahms and Dvorak, with American tunes steadily stirred into the mixture to make it rise to some glorious moments of mayhem, is repertoire material in its home country, but I can't recall ever hearing it in concert here. Richard Bernas - American, and known chiefly as a conductor of contemporary music - bravely took on the full programme as advertised.

An all-Beethoven first half didn't get things off to a good start. A raw and rhythmically rocky "Namensfeier" Overture was followed by the *Violin Concerto*, in which the soloist was the young, upcoming German, Isabelle Faust. She's an extremely efficient player, though suffering from a certain inflexibility of tone and occasional intonational lapses. On this showing, Faust lacks the ability to phrase characterfully, or to engage the listener from moment to moment, or with much feeling for overall structure.

In the Ives, the BSO's sometimes rough-and-ready sound, from the strings in particular, gave a not inappropriately elemental edge to the proceedings. Bernas shaped this five-movement, quite complex symphony with real finesse, too, building powerfully towards the zany climaxes of the second movement which had an explosive impact.

While such imaginative programming is to be commended, music by living composers plays a sadly small part in this year's main season. All the more welcome, then, is Kokoro, a 20th-century ensemble which is the initiative of the percussionist Kevin Field and some of his fellow performers. The group's late-night concert on Wednesday included alert, performances of Stravinsky's *Septet* and Ravel's "Introduction and Allegro" and, sensibly, irritating Birmingham's scheme of commissions paid for by members of the audience, the premiere of Colin Riley's evocative "Taking Leaves".

Despite the BSO's stabilisation grant from the Arts Council, the abandonment of the ambitious plans for a regular new venue in Bristol has led to the departure of Anthony Woodcock, the orchestra's managing director, for the US. Yakov Kreizberg, the principal conductor who is currently "on sabbatical", is also missed. Right now, it has to be admitted that the BSO doesn't sound like the orchestra with international potential that he has steered for the past three years.

KEITH POTTER

## Into the swing with five-star Cinders

"COME ON then - get it all out of your system," jeers Brian Prothero's wicked stepmother at the hissing audience. Here, they don't need much encouragement in that department - which is why it is such a great place to see a pantomime.

They were selling toy swords and magic wands in the front of house, and even before the proceedings proper had started, one little boy was seen devotedly bashing his weapon over the head of the drummer in the pit. The heckles have a good-humoured, almost free-associative

### THEATRE

CINDERELLA  
THEATRE ROYAL  
STRAFORD EAST  
LONDON

abandon. While Cinders's nasty step-sisters, Cloaca and Lymphida, were getting dressed up for the ball, a girl sitting behind me yelled: "You are ugly! You are ugly! You are ugly!!... actually, I like that frock."

So if the audience gets a five-star rating, what about the rest of the

entertainment? Witty scripted by David Cregan, with lots of catchy, kidding songs by the versatile Mr Prothero, Stratford's Cinderella is a joy. In this version, it's really Dean Maynard's tall clump of a Prince who creates the initial miserable existence for Fiona Wade's ravishing heroine. Forever galloping around on his hobby-horse in search of the "less fortunate" ("Hello, are you one of the less fortunate?"), he inflicts his fatuous philanthropy on Cinderella's family by arranging a marriage of financial convenience between her

dim, hard-up father and Prothero's Mrs Joy De Palma. A monster with leopard-skin trimmings, she makes much use of a travelling punishment-cupboard with a silence lever. Will BGP (ie "boy and girl power") be able to sing fit to blast Cinders out of this prison so that she can try on the glass slipper? The only surprise, given the intensity of the response, is that the cast don't end up having to extricate shattered slipper from their wigs.

The show has across-the-board charm. Parents like myself who, unhinged by the current craze, have

even begun to dream about Yo-Yo, should be warned that you can't get away from them here. Is there a Buttons throughout the land this year who is not wielding one of these harrowing toys? But then I doubt there is a Buttons in the land half as winning and unsoppy as Paul Keating, who delivers the deftly daft songs ("If the sky is falling in/ And you are as miserable as sin/ 'Cos you've lost your kith and kin/ Skip a bit and smile") with a lovely impudence.

There's audience participation, a radiant Fairy Godmother (Debra

Michaelis) who has been told by Head Office to restrict her magical assistance to those who are "darn near dead", and a very funny Royal Family who launch into a riotous rock'n'roll extravaganza when they decide to throw a party - the ancestral portraits on the wall behind them getting into the swing of things too. Cinders does, of course, get to the ball. And you will have a ball. You will! Oh yes, you will!

PAUL TAYLOR

Tb 23 Jan (0181-534 0310)

## Blazing into colour

IT'S AN indication of the difference in popularity, still, between Bruckner and Mahler that far fewer people turned up for this performance of Bruckner's seventh symphony than attended the New Queen's Hall Orchestra's recent Mahler sixth. Which is a pity, as the Bruckner provided a very different, but equally fascinating chance to experience the virtues of "period" performance of late Romantic orchestral music. Mahler's dramatically coloured scores present wooden flutes, narrow-bore brass, hide-headed drums etc. in a highly exposed way, whereas with Bruckner the effect was more subtle - like an old, fine-detailed, sepia-tone photograph brought to life. The rich, warm sound of gut strings was evident from the measured opening theme, while the first climax made it clear this was to be an interpretation where intensity rather than sheer brute force held sway. Great sounding chords recalled a ruckus of beloved cathedral organ, and sharp, clear woodwind bit through the sur-

### CLASSICAL

NEW QUEEN'S  
HALL ORCHESTRA  
BARBICAN CENTRE  
LONDON

rounding textures to very striking effect.

Here, as elsewhere in the symphony, attacks were not always perfect, and conductor Wyn Morris's elasticity of tempo was slightly disconcerting, exciting, in the final peroration. But the performance grew in stature as it unfolded - for the glorious adagio in memory of Wagner the bass tuba player crossed the stage to join a quartet of Wagner-tubas (made for Sir Henry Wood in 1892 and played here for the first time since the Twenties) to magnificent effect. The focused tuba sound, together with the long, sweeping melodies, brought this movement to life, and the final climax and coda of infinite regret was mesmerising.

Morris chose a rather deliberate tempo for the scherzo, but what was especially pleasing was the warmth of

the nostalgic trio section. The finale - a difficult, episodic movement - got off to a scintillating start, with lucid woodwind standing out again. The added depth and deep resonance of the Wagner-tubas joined with the other brass to enhance the effect of contrasting "choirs", and echoes of the great Johann Sebastian were in the air, as the sepia photograph blazed into colour in the resplendent and noble conclusion of this utterly monumental work.

In Strauss's First Horn Concerto, the soloist Roger Montgomery bravely took on some fiendishly difficult music with a 110-year-old, genuinely French, horn. After a false start and some technical adjustments he responded well to the tuneful material, with a pleasingly lyrical quality in the quieter passages. In comparison to the modern horn the more virtuosic passages seemed to lack power and brilliance, but the experience was thoroughly stimulating and received with warm applause.

LAURENCE HUGHES

FIRST PUBLISHED in 1900, L Frank Baum's wonderland tale fixed the image of a yellow-brick road, snaking its way through unspoilt expanses towards the wish-fulfilling towers of the Emerald city. It could be seen as one of the greatest advertisements for highway construction of all time, or a pedestrian zone like no other. However, John Doyle's joyful stage version of the movie appears reluctant to rub salt into local wounds opened by the notorious building of the local bypass. His yellow-brick road is closer to a strip of imitation yellow-brick matting.

Meg Surrey's understated design (a wall-to-wall skyscape, untroubled by the merest hint of tornado-spun Kansas farmstead) can be partly attributed to the Watermill's acting area, which isn't big enough to swing a munchkin in Doyle's aesthetic carefully sidesteps the movie's more troublesome visual elements. This Dorothy's Oz is remarkably similar to the rural back-of-beyond she has just left. The Wicked Witch of the West is no broomstick-thin

## Stand by your scarecrow

### THEATRE

THE WIZARD OF OZ  
WATERMILL THEATRE  
NEWBURY

harridan but a buxom cowgirl, clad in black from stetson to knee-high boot, with a pair of revolvers slung suggestively around the navel. The Sorceress of the South (very Tammy Wynette) in a white-jean number and a Statue-of-Liberty-style headpiece comes armed with a hicksville drawl and a wholesome smile. The Scarecrow, Tin Man and Lion resemble overalled farmhands in half fancy-dress, while the citizens of munchkin-land are, as any child could see, a group of kids in multi-coloured knickerbockers and wigs.

What gives this "Wiz" whiz is the way that the cast all play instruments as they are spun back and forth by a mini-revolve. Every cloud has a silver handle, enabling swift access to cupboards crammed with instruments; as well as a horn and wind section, there's an accordion for the Tin Man (clunkingly good Simon Walters), a

banjo for the scarecrow (Jeremy Harrison on floppy form) and a recorder for Katherine Oliver's Dorothy (more tomboy than Judy Garland). They lend a warm, Country-and-Western tone to Harold Arlen's and Yip Harburg's timeless songs, turning the forest capers into a vigorous hoe-down and ending with a beautiful a capella re-run of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow".

It's a gentle show, for the (very) young at heart: the schoolchildren at the matinee I saw were too busy pretending to choke on the dry ice to be much bothered by the light-bulb contraption intended to signify "the great Oz". The wicked witch's come-uppance, and Dorothy's return home, happen faster than you can say "my pretty". But if the journey is more memorable than the arrival, that has always been the point. It isn't as awesome as the film, but this *Wizard of Oz* still has plenty of brains, heart and courage. It deserves to blow its own trumpet.

DOMINIC CAVENTISH

Tb 16 Jan (01635 460441)



Jeremy Harrison and Katherine Oliver Laurence Burns



# 'I'm no artist but...'

In the third part of our week-long series on the culture of criticism, we look at what it means to be an art critic. Who qualifies to eke words out of images? How are exhibitions chosen? And do art critics have any real influence anyway? By Tom Lubbock

So what do you do, then? And you can guess how pleased I am at having this chance to talk for the equivalent of about 10 minutes, uninterrupted, on the subject of my job. Actually, when the question comes, I quite often don't say "art critic". I say "commercial illustrator". That was once my living. It sounds a decent, banal sort of trade. It causes no trouble. Whereas "art critic" - well, it's one of the very worst classes of person.

What is wrong with art critics? They are as bad as other critics: vindictive, frustrated parasites, and then some. However, there are two main, extra negatives. First of all, the gap between art criticism and what it purports to criticise, seems especially wide: the visual and the verbal, and all that. So the art critic who spins words off images by the yard falls under the grave suspicion of simply faking it. (You may say that music criticism is trickier still, but the music critic somehow isn't such a folkloric figure.)

Second factor: Modernism in the visual arts has been more prominently bizarre than elsewhere. So it's always an art critic who - in the fable - rhapsodises the exquisite modernity of something that turns out later to be the work of a monkey. Indeed, for people who think modern art is a con, it is not the artists (honest nutters) but the critics (pretentious impostors) who are usually the real villains.

But if I've come clean, and if the conversation doesn't stick on those points, then there are a few questions that frequently get asked, and I thought I should note them down. Most asked question: do you get to choose the shows you write about? Curious one: an oddly practical inquiry. Like saying: do you art critics always get free catalogues? And we do, incidentally, always - or we make the most dreadful fuss. In fact, accumulating large glossy art-books for free is one of the real perks of the profession. I mean, what do the theatre critics get to show for it? Free programmes!

But what this choosing question means, I'm never quite sure. Is it a way of asking whether there's an "agenda" - some general tacit policy, agreed between the media and the art world, about what shows are going to be covered? Or is it a way of saying: I can see your job must be quite a doss, but if you also choose the shows yourself, it would hardly be a job at all? As to an agenda, there is one. The process happens like this. The paper's arts editor will say to the

arts critic: you are going to review X, aren't you? Critic: Oh God, do I have to, nothing to say about it at all. Arts ed: No, I think it's quite major - readers will be aware of it, and want to hear a view. And what makes some show "major" is the usual rolling, self-reinforcing process of established fame, fresh publicity and coverage.

Of course, the whole process gets internalised, all down the line. These conversations don't usually happen. I don't need to be told which shows are major. I know it very well. And the straight answer to the question is that these major shows are pretty compulsory. Others are optional. Some weeks nothing presses and you're free to write about any show you want. Not that I wouldn't want to write about most of the compulsory ones anyway, and not that making people write about what they'd rather not is such a bad thing. For example, I didn't choose this present assignment, and thought it a little bit silly, but I seem to have got some true things said.

As to the charge of idleness, I can only say that for the perfect fusion of work and leisure, the TV critics must surely take the prize. And we art critics do at least see the work under real conditions. We often go in normal public opening hours, unlike film critics who are stuck in small, underground screening cinemas, exclusively in their own company. But I suppose that only makes the art critic's job sound nicer. Yes, it's a good job, no doubt about it.

So another question: what qualification do you have to be an art critic? And again: how do you define what makes one work better than another? These are the sort of questions that are called good questions - i.e. straight answers are impossible, and the right answers sound boring. After all, what qualification could there conceivably be? You can only describe how you came to have the job and how you made some particular judgement, and it can get quite dull.

Besides, these are really general critic queries. And the rest - who's your top artist ever? What about Hirst, or Ofili, or Saatchi? - are really general party talk. If you wanted to get the best out of your art critic interlocutor, I'd suggest another area of questioning. Think about how art critics both lack an important power and acquire a strange authority.

All critics, like all advertisers, tend to boast about how little effect they have, and really this is a question for proper research. But art critics



Flapbutt (the famous young art critic): 'What's this pencil sketch I've found on the easel?'

Our artist: 'Oh it's by Flumpkin - the Impressionist all you chaps are so enthusiastic about. Clever isn't it?'

Flapbutt: 'Clever! Why it's divine! Such freshness, such naivete! Such a splendid scorn of conventional technique! Such a...'

Our artist: 'A thousand pardons! That's the wrong thing you've got hold of! That's just a scribble by this little scamp of a grandson of mine. Not very promising, I fear, but he's only four!'

'Punch', 7 July 1894

must be conscious that, with contemporary art at least, there's one clear limit on their influence: burns on seats is not a factor.

No art show closes for bad houses. Runs are fixed, though very occasionally extended. No artistic reputation is made through popular acclaim. The important business of contemporary art isn't done at public exhibitions. It's done in private galleries which the public are hardly encouraged to visit; at any rate, it's done between a small number of dealers, curators and rich people. So however persuasively art critics may speak, they're in a sort of limbo. Most of those they speak to are themselves without influence. Those who have influence don't

need the papers for advice. Though possibly the rudest, art critics can never be very ruinous.

True, a good notice and a good crowd are always welcome, and may make a little difference. But if *Sensation* last year had been a big flop, rather than a big hit, I wonder how much it would have affected the careers of the artists shown. Or put it like this: *Sensation* was a gamble - a gamble on new art having a wide appeal. And it paid off. But there was no obligation to make the gamble in the first place.

We're talking economics. We're talking about an audience of non-patrons: a public who don't pay the piper or call the tune. This is partly why mainstream contemporary art

can carry on in avant-garde mode, whereas mainstream theatre or cinema employ nearly traditional forms. But it also puts art's audience at a distance from the art. They know that the power of choice is elsewhere, and that they are, so to speak, only in attendance, only paying court. And this rarefying distance makes for mystery, and so gives art critics their odd authority.

Expert is the annoying, indicating word. Nobody gets called a book expert, and only a few get called cinema or music experts - and they're not the critics. But art critics easily get called art experts, as if privy to arcane. Or think about arts TV: nine-times-out-of-ten it is visual art that receives the living guide-book

treatment; the personal introduction to the mysterious but glorious world of art. It's not just that art looks nice on telly. There's a felt need for these helpful ciceroni - Wendy Beckett, Waldemar Januszczak - to appreciate art on our behalf. Nobody feels the same need to be told how to watch films or listen to music.

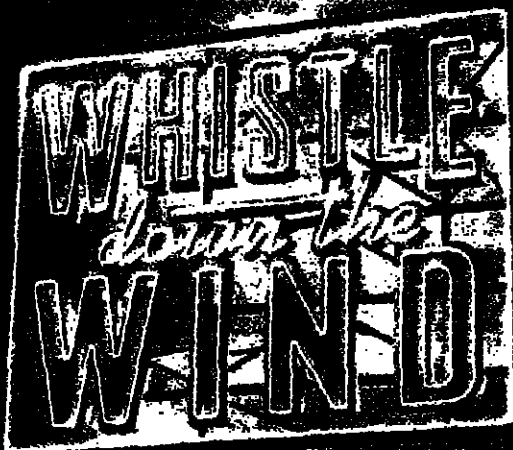
Personally, this "let me take you by the hand and lead you through the streets of culture" approach makes me puke. I want everyone to be grown ups. I don't think art is inherently an arch mystery. I don't especially blame the poverty of visual education, either; I never had any myself. I blame the psychology of economics. It applies to new and old.

Visual art is this sacred mystery because it's out of our hands. It's never made the transition from a feudal to a market economy. It's still run by princes - rich individuals and public functionaries. It stands a thing apart, a treasure. No outrageous profanity by contemporary artists can dent its aura, and the so-called "age of mechanical reproduction" has made not the slightest difference. Nor can art critics, even when they try, easily slough off the role of mystagogue.

Sorry to moan. That's what I do, anyway. But as with most things, it isn't wholly I that does it.

Tomorrow: Paul Taylor on theatre criticism

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ALDWYCH THEATRE

## THE INDEPENDENT COLLECTOR

JOHN WINDSOR'S GUIDE TO COLLECTING CONTEMPORARY ART: GILES REVELL

IN SUMMER last year, this ladybird was scurrying over tussocks of grass on the cliffs of Ballard Down, Dorset. Now it is a work of art - a triumph of nature and electron microscopy.

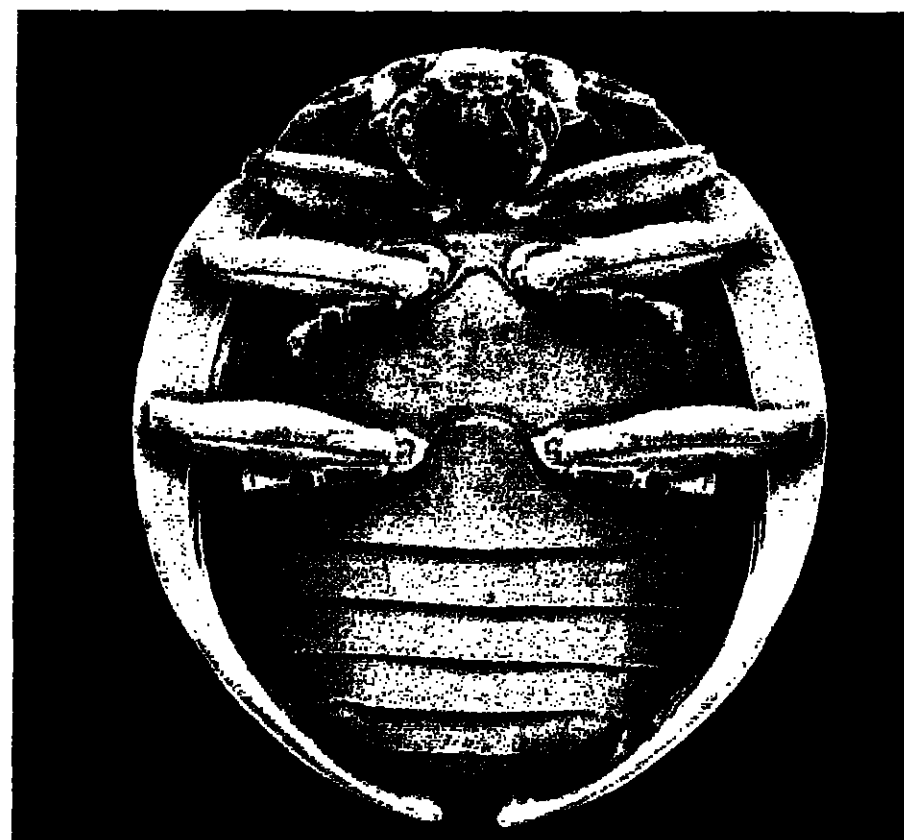
Giles Revell, a photographer and former geologist, captured it in a jamjar, killed it in his deep freeze, dehydrated it in alcohol - then spent a month scanning it bit by bit, joining the scans by computer. The result is a giant, 30in by 40in black-and-white pigment transfer on to art paper of a minutely detailed ladybird.

Ink with a non-fade life of 75 years has recently been developed - which means that Revell can produce saleable images of insects blown up to 12ft by 9ft, using an Iris ink-jet printer.

He uses a scanning electron microscope instead of a light microscope - electrons instead of photons - because its magnifying power is greater, and it produces a three-dimensional effect.

It can magnify up to 50,000 times. The ladybird is magnified a mere 50 times before processing. "It has a lot of form," says Revell.

He has also produced prints of magnifications of a woodlouse and a grasshopper, and an X-ray of a skate fish. "I was interested in recording everyday insects that we never think twice about," he says, "in order to reveal how complex they are. The ladybird's feet are like little



Giles Revell's ladybird: 'It has a lot of form.'

Michael Hoppen Photography

brushes and its underside is completely covered in tiny hairs that lie evenly, as if they have been combed."

Revell, 33, was introduced to light microscopy of minerals while training as a geologist. He worked for two years with the British Geological Survey before embarking on a career as a photographer in advertising.

"I also read a lot of books on natural history. They got me thinking."

The Natural History Museum's microscopy department told him how to use chemical fixatives to preserve dead insects, and put him in touch with the Royal Holloway University, which allowed him to use its £60,000 scanning electron microscope.

The insects need to be dehydrated - otherwise the vacuum in which electrons are fired at them would cause them to explode. The vacuum also ensures that air molecules do not impede the trajectory of the electrons. The image is in fact created by electrons emitted from the surface of the insect as the electron beam hits it.

The dead insect is coated in gold for maximum conductivity - like a tiny, gilded pharaoh in a vacuum-packed sarcophagus.

It can take up to two days to lay out an insect. Revell's aesthetic sense dictates that it should lie with legs and antennae symmetrically placed, not sticking out at all angles. "The trouble," says Revell, "is that they don't die tidily. I want to see them as symmetrical forms. The positions I put them in are not completely forced. They do pull up their legs symmetrically in real life - when resting on a leaf, for example."

"But they are very brittle after dehydration. You can spend a day arranging an insect with pins and prods - and then a leg falls off."

It takes even longer - about a month, working six to eight hours a day - to join 75 6in-by-7in electronic scans seamlessly by computer, to produce the complete picture. The computer file is then printed on to art paper.

If Revell ever succeeds in producing an electronic blow-up of a moth, his art will have reached its apotheosis. As soon as you touch a dead moth, its hair and the scales of its wings begin to fall off. "There must be a way," he says.

Prices: £3,000 plus VAT in editions of seven from the Michael Hoppen Gallery, 3 Jubilee Place, London SW3 0JTT (0171 352 3649). The gallery will be exhibiting Revell's work in May and June 1999



...qualifies to  
...Lubbock

55 من الاصل

# HEALTH

Can eating peanuts during pregnancy lead to a fatal allergic reaction in your child? The Chief Medical Officer seems to think so, but the evidence is inconclusive. By Caroline Richmond

## A hard nut to crack

**B**enjamin Dunlop was 13 months old when his mother, Sharon, gave him a taste of peanut butter. "I put a tiny bit on the end of a spoon and within a minute he had a bright red, swollen face. He came up in lumps - hives - and he vomited. He then went floppy and lethargic."

Although Sharon Dunlop is the resuscitation training officer for Westham Park Hospital in Slough, she panicked. "I got some Pirron - an antihistamine - and gave it to him. By then, his breathing was noisy and laboured." She ran outside as her husband, Duncan, arrived home, and they drove Benjamin to their doctor's surgery. Here his condition gradually improved, and he was allowed home when his symptoms had subsided.

Children who get peanut allergy tend to come from families with a tendency to allergy - "atopic" families. Ben's mother, Sharon, gets allergic asthma from contact with animals, especially dogs, and her brother suffers from eczema. Sharon Dunlop confesses that she had "a bit of a fetish" for Snickers bars, which contain peanuts, when she was pregnant with Benjamin. So is that why Ben is allergic to peanuts?

Earlier this year, the Chief Medical Officer suggested that mothers with a tendency to allergy "may wish" to avoid eating peanuts during pregnancy. His advice was based on a report from an expert Government committee, and followed a rise in the incidence of peanut allergy, which usually appears in babies and toddlers



Sharon Dunlop and her son, Benjamin - allergic to peanuts but not other nuts John Lawrence

*In a case of identical twins (with the same genetic make-up) one was sensitive to peanuts while the other had no reaction*

and now affects one in 200 four-year-olds. Other allergies are increasing, but peanut allergy is serious because it can cause fatal anaphylactic shock.

But clear evidence for the Government's advice is lacking, and the emphasis on what mothers "may wish" to do in pregnancy underlines the fact. Deborah Fox and Gideon Lack, doctors at the Paediatric Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Clinic at St Mary's Hospital in London, believe avoiding peanuts may even increase the prevalence of peanut allergy.

In a letter to *The Lancet*, they said that the Government guidelines that suggest atopic pregnant and breastfeeding mothers should avoid peanuts are not based on evidence, and have caused distress to mothers with peanut-allergic children.

They described seeing mothers of peanut-allergic patients who fear that their child's allergy was caused by the nuts they ate in pregnancy, and other mothers who had deliberately avoided eating them - but still had peanut-allergic children. In the case of identical twins seen in their clinic, one twin has often been found to be sensitive to peanuts while the other has had no reaction at all.

Given that identical twins have the same genetic make-up and are exposed during pregnancy to the same substances from the mother's blood, this suggests that something more than eating nuts in pregnancy causes the allergic reaction.

They do, however, accept that excessive peanut consumption could be associated with peanut allergy. Dr Fox told *The Independent* of one mother of two peanut-allergic children who ate peanuts, peanut butter or Snickers bars 25 to 30 times a week. "But there is also evidence that complete abstinence is associated with allergy," she added. "When mothers ask us what they should do in their next pregnancy and breast-feeding, we advise them to eat small quantities."

Dr Richard Pumphrey, consultant immunologist at St Mary's Hospital, Manchester, is also sceptical about the Government's advice. "We see more and more young patients with nut allergy, and mothers often ask if it could be because they ate nuts when

pregnant," he says. "There may be a small chance of sensitisation if the mother eats nuts during pregnancy, but there is no firm evidence that sensitisation occurs in the womb."

John Warner, professor of child health at Southampton University, and a member of the Government's working group on peanut allergy, said: "On the balance of evidence, and given that peanuts are not an essential part of anyone's diet, it seems reasonable to recommend that during pregnancy and breast-feeding, women with a family history of allergies do not have these products."

However, when Professor Warner was interviewed for an article that appeared in the *British Medical Journal*, he was quoted as saying:

"Whether avoiding the allergen makes a difference is an act of faith."

Pamela Ewan, the consultant at the allergy and clinical immunology department at Cambridge's Addenbrooke's Hospital, says that there is "no evidence of sensitisation to peanut allergen in utero", and believes that more research needs to be done so that "public health measures can be soundly based".

Despite the lack of evidence, Dr Jonathan Hourihane, from the Institute of Child Health and Great Ormond Street Hospital, says that when mothers ask, he advises them to avoid peanuts because "no one comes to any harm from not eating them".

He agrees with the Government's advice, but says: "I don't believe in the

nanny state, and anyway, a lot of mothers have already decided what they are going to do in their next pregnancy."

And when it comes to the question of giving young children peanuts or peanut butter, Dr Hourihane adds: "In south-east Asia and some parts of Africa, it's a weaning food."

Dr Fox makes a similar point in her letter to *The Lancet*: "In south-east Asian societies, in which groundnut is part of the staple diet, there is a low prevalence of peanut allergy."

Peanut allergy ranges from a mild reaction, with a fairly runny nose or slight skin blotches, to the life-threatening, with swelling of the throat and allergic shock (anaphylaxis). Symptoms are most severe in teenagers and young adults, and there are at least five deaths a year. These can be prevented if the allergy is recognised by an allergy specialist, and people at risk carry an automatic adrenaline syringe called an EpiPen.

However, people with allergies have very little chance of getting good specialist advice: there are only 68 hospitals in Britain with an allergy clinic, and only 13 of those are run by a consultant allergist who is trained in dealing with all types of allergy. Only four of the 13 are outside London - in Cambridge, Leicester, Liverpool and Southampton.

Even in Cambridge, a centre of excellence, Dr Ewan says that another consultant is needed. The clinics are regularly overbooked, they see 2,200 outpatients a year, and the waiting list is 15 months long, though cases that are urgent are seen more quickly.

*In south-east Asia and parts of Africa, peanuts are used as weaning food and the prevalence of peanut allergy is low*

In 1993, Sarah Reading died, aged 17, in a restaurant in Guildford after eating a dessert that contained traces of peanut. She didn't carry an EpiPen, which might have saved her life, because neither she nor her family knew they existed. Her father, David, responded by starting the Anaphylaxis Campaign, which has 5,000 members. It has joined hands with the British Allergy Foundation and the Royal College of Physicians to press the Department of Health to recognise allergy as a speciality, to train more doctors in it, and also to increase the number of clinics.

After his acute episode, Benjamin, who is now two-and-a-half, was referred to Dr Jan Reiser at Lister Hospital, Stevenage, a paediatrician with an interest in allergy. Because his allergic response was so severe, Dr Reiser tested him for other nut allergies. He doesn't have them, and he can eat other, tree-grown nuts.

The Dunlopes keep an EpiPen in the house in case Benjamin needs it, and there is also one at his nursery. If Mrs Dunlop has another child, will she eat peanuts during the pregnancy? "Definitely not, and my advice is don't try a child on any form of nuts until they are at least three."

*Anaphylaxis Campaign, 2 Clockhouse Road, Farnborough GU14 7QY. Tel 01252 542 029. For a free information pack, send an A4, self-addressed envelope with two first-class stamps*

## Dentists who drill for gold

HEALTH CHECK  
  
JEREMY LAURANCE

A DISTURBING photograph appeared in the medical press last month. It showed a queue of people snaking down a pavement in a provincial town. There was a man in a suit, a mother with two children, a lad in a denim jacket - ordinary people from different backgrounds queuing for... the dentist.

A day and a half after a new NHS dentists' surgery opened in Truro, Cornwall, more than 1,000 patients had flocked to register. New patients queued for hours and some travelled from 100 miles away to avail themselves of what is supposed to be a readily available national service.

The destruction of NHS dentistry is a scandal that has gone almost unreported. Ministers claim that there are more NHS dentists than ever, but increasing numbers treat only children and the poor on the NHS. For an adult, paying patient, finding an NHS dentist is difficult everywhere and next to impossible in the south of the country.

For those who fail in the search - or balk at travelling 100 miles to have a tooth filled - a private dentist is the only option. But for many the cost of treatment is unaffordable.

The dentist peers into your mouth, announces what must be done, and starts to drill. As the precious enamel disappears in a whirl of grit and water, the dental practice's bank balance notches up at least £3 every minute.

A new book describes a patient who received an estimate of £58,000 from a private dentist for a "full mouth rehabilitation". That puts Martin Amis's reputed £20,000 bill in perspective. Fees of £100 for a filling that would cost £10 on the NHS are common.

In a market with prices such as these, tooth preservation becomes a critical priority. I am one person who has given up the major part of his dentition to over-eager dentists down the years. Conscientiously visiting the dentist every six months - my first serious error - I was always told so much work was needed that it would trigger the maximum NHS payment. Today, my mouth contains

enough amalgam to trigger a bomb scare.

It was, therefore, with a strong feeling of relief that, more than a decade ago, I came upon an NHS dentist with a different, low-key style.

Anne Sherman has practised from the same surgery in Hackney for more than 25 years. Warm, but tough, she understands what too few dentists seem to: that teeth are for preserving, and drilling should be a last resort.

Now she has written a book - a guide to dentistry based on two decades of answering patients' questions - co-authored with her late husband, Barrie Sherman, the writer and broadcaster who died last year.

Like the woman, the book delivers direct, straightforward advice in a plain, unadorned style - and includes the anecdote about the £58,000 "rehabilitation" estimate.

A couple of years ago, after another of my overfilled teeth gave way, I consulted a private patient who received an estimate of £58,000 from a private dentist for a "full mouth rehabilitation". That puts Martin Amis's reputed £20,000 bill in perspective. Fees of £100 for a filling that would cost £10 on the NHS are common.

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*'Complete Family Guide to Dental Health' by Anne and Barrie Sherman (Thorsons, £5.99)*

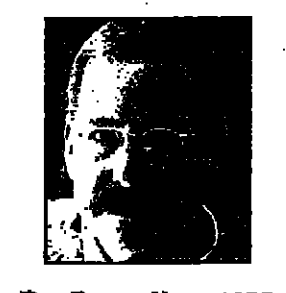
## There is a subtle killer in the air

I AM worried that I may be suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning at work. What are the symptoms?

Carbon monoxide is an odourless, colourless gas that can be detected only with special monitoring equipment. Exposure to high concentrations of the gas leads to collapse, unconsciousness and death. But the symptoms of exposure to low concentrations are much more vague and can be identical to the symptoms of food poisoning or flu (without fever). The commonest symptom is a headache, which affects 90 per cent of people who are exposed to the gas. Nausea and

vomiting affect about half of people who are exposed, and a feeling of dizziness or that the room is spinning around (vertigo) affects some people. Whole families who seem to be suffering from food poisoning may in fact be affected by carbon monoxide poisoning. If more than one person in the house is affected, or if the symptoms always occur in one place (either work or home), the cause could be carbon monoxide poisoning. Corgi-registered gas engineers and local environmental health officers can measure carbon monoxide levels, and the Health and Safety Executive has a helpline on 0800 300363. Carbon monoxide detectors and alarms are useful to

### A QUESTION OF HEALTH



DR FRED KAVALIER

prevent acute poisoning, but they do not detect low levels of the gas.

MY MOTHER seems to be allergic to something that

causes her scalp to become red and irritated. The only shampoo she can tolerate is now being withdrawn by the manufacturers. Is there any way to find out exactly what chemicals she is allergic to?

Your mother may be able to discover the precise cause of her allergy by having her skin tested with a range of common chemical additives. This can be done by a dermatologist and she should ask to be referred to a hospital dermatology clinic for skin testing. If a cause is found, you will have to contact shampoo manufacturers to discover what chemicals are in their products. In the meantime, I suggest she tries Infaderm

shampoo, which is manufactured by Goldshield Pharmaceuticals.

MY DOCTOR frequently consults a thick paperback book which appears to contain a wealth of information about drugs and their side-effects. Is this available to the public?

This book, the *British National Formulary* (BNF), is full of information about drugs, including their side-effects, interactions with other drugs, and doses. It indicates which drugs are available without a prescription. It also provides sensible guidance on how to treat many illnesses. Unlike most of the drugs that it describes, it is available

without a doctor's prescription. It might make an unusual Christmas present for both hypochondriacs and people who are interested in drugs and illnesses. It is updated twice a year, and the current edition is BNF 36. You can order a copy from the BMJ Bookshop, Burton Street, London WC1H 9JR, 0171-387 4499, for £14.95 including postage.

Please send questions to A Question of Health, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 3DL; fax 0171-293 2182; or e-mail to health@independent.co.uk. Dr Kavalier cannot respond personally to questions

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If you need a transfusion during an operation, recycling your own blood will help you to recover faster. By Paul Dinsdale

# Just what the patient ordered.

When Claire Rayner had to have an operation to replace her knee joint, she knew that it would involve the loss of a lot of blood, so she thought she would rather have her own than a donation from a stranger. "I wanted to give some of my own blood well in advance and have it back when I needed it," she said.

Ms Rayner was disappointed, however, because the hospital did not operate an autologous blood transfusion scheme. This process, where the patient's own blood is used, is already relieving pressure on donated blood stocks and improving recovery times for patients. However, 20 hospitals around the country are now using an even smarter method, called intra-operative salvage.

"What happens in most hospitals is that, when a patient loses blood during an operation, it is collected and poured away, which is an astonishing waste of a precious resource," says Dr Mike Thomas, a consultant in transfusion medicine and the chairman of the special interest group of the British Blood Transfusion Society.

During the intra-operative salvage process, blood is taken away by suction, as in normal operations, and is then fed through a tube to a machine which begins a washing procedure to make it ready for transfusion. The main advantage in patients being given their own blood is that it helps to avoid the efficiency of their immune system being reduced as a result of using somebody else's blood.

"The body does not recognise the donated blood cells as its own and does not accept them at first, and this allows bacteria to creep in by default," explains Dr Thomas. "Patients who have autologous transfusions are therefore less likely to develop post-operative infections and, on average, they leave hospital two to five days earlier than those who receive donated (or homologous) blood."

At Southmead Hospital in Bristol, a study of orthopaedic patients who had received autologous transfusions showed this to be the case, and the hospital's use of costly blood stocks and antibiotics has also been reduced.

Dr Carl Waldmann, the director of intensive care at the Royal Berkshire Hospital Trust, in Reading, says: "The introduction of intra-operative cell salvage has proved very beneficial as we now use less donated blood, which is very expensive - we estimate that donated blood costs around £50 per unit (about a pint). Patients are comfortable in the knowledge that they will, in most cases, be given their own blood," he explains. "There is a genuine underlying concern among patients about the potential risk of exposure to HIV."

One patient who has felt the benefit of recycling his own blood is Stanley Yentis, aged 72, who lives in Heron Island, Berkshire. He was diagnosed as having an aortic



Stocks of donated blood could fall to their lowest levels of the year this Christmas. Claire Rayner (below) feels 'so grateful' to the person who donated blood for her operation

John Moss

aneurysm, a potentially life-threatening condition, and went into hospital for a three-hour operation. During the operation he was given an autologous transfusion of around 12 units of his own blood.

"The doctor told me I would be given my own blood, but it didn't really mean much to me," says Mr Yentis. "I certainly had no problems with the system, and I felt fine four days later."

Mr Yentis developed no post-operative infection, the risk of which is higher in older patients, and was allowed home four days after surgery, whereas most patients recovering from similar operations have to stay in hospital for around 10 days. But Mr Yentis, a retired civil engineer, was riding his bicycle again within four weeks.

Dr Waldmann says that the most beneficial use of the process is in orthopaedics and vascular surgery. It is also used in emergency opera-

tions, although not all are suitable. "The machine costs from £10,000 to £20,000, but once the hospital starts using it there are long-term cost savings in donated blood. But



one problem, from the bureaucratic point of view, can be getting approval from managers to transfer money that would have spent on donated blood to buying a machine."

The National Blood Transfusion Service has warned that, in the run-up to Christmas, stocks of donated blood could fall to their lowest levels of the year. The service has urged

People have developed a bit of a thing about donated blood, which is unfortunate because it has saved thousands of lives. Collecting blood during surgery and putting it back sounds a brilliant idea. It would be enormously reassuring

risers due to an increase in road accidents and other injuries. The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) has recently endorsed the mounting evidence of the benefits of

salvage, the RCP said that "provided a rigid standard operating procedure is in place and the equipment is easily available with appropriate staff training, the side-effects are fewer than those associated with allogeneic (donated) transfusion".

Until recently, the only option for patients who wanted to be given transfusions of their own blood was to find one of the few hospitals that has a pre-deposit scheme, in which patients give their own blood before a planned operation. Most hospitals found that this was too complex administratively and too expensive to run in terms of blood storage and nurse time. Nevertheless, the RCP predicts that pre-deposit schemes will become more widespread.

Which will be good news for Claire Rayner if she ever needs another operation. Ms Rayner, who is the chairwoman of the Patients' Association, says that she did not argue when she was told she

could not pre-store her own blood. "I was prepared to believe the reasons were good ones," she says. She had her operation but afterwards became anaemic and required a further blood transfusion. "I felt so ill, and it made a huge difference. I was so grateful to the person who made the donation. I thought about how they had done that for me, and it just hit me."

Ms Rayner welcomed the circular issued by the health department in consultation with the Patients' Association urging hospitals to do more to conserve blood.

"People have developed a bit of a thing about donated blood, which is unfortunate because it has saved thousands of lives. Collecting blood during surgery and putting it back sounds brilliant. It would be enormously reassuring."

Call the National Blood Transfusion Service on 0345 711711

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### Legal Notices

No. 96987 of 1998 IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT

IN THE MATTER OF SYSTEMS IN THE MATTER OF THE NATIONAL GROUP PLC AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 1st December 1998 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the share capital of the above named Company from £20,000,000 to £400,000.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Registrar of the Companies Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the 27th January 1999.

ANY creditor or shareholder of the Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of share capital should appear at the time of the hearing as person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undersigned solicitors on request of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated this 17th day of December 1998

Orchard Solicitors, 99 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3YU.

Solicitors to the Company

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## Sex, lies and evolutionists

BOFFINS HAVE discovered a Peruvian tribe whose men have wider hips than women, in contrast to the Marilyn Monroe and Kate Moss shapes that we favour. Shown pictures of the latter, the witty Peruvians suggested that they probably suffered from diarrhoea. This supposedly presents a challenge to the evolutionary psychologists' claim that our tastes reflect a universal, genetically programmed concept of female beauty.

In fact, for many of the issues that are taken as evolutionary gospel truth we do not need Peruvian exceptions to see that social rather than genetic explanations remain pivotal. There is a substantial body of work by the American psychologist Brett Silverstein which shows the centrality of social processes. Silverstein established that the modern "thin standard" for female attractiveness has fluctuated. Magazine photographs of women demonstrate that in the mid-Twenties and from the mid-Sixties to the present, standards have become very thin (as measured by low ratio bust and hip to waist measurements). Why should these

OLIVER JAMES



BRITAIN ON THE COUCH

fluctuations occur? Silverstein points to the fact that men have been more likely in most societies to be high achievers. At the same time, curvaceous women are perceived to be less intelligent than non-curvaceous ones, so women who want to be successful may minimise their femininity. Silverstein has established that thinness and achievement are connected in women. Responding to silhouettes of female figures, women who preferred smaller breasts and buttocks were also more likely to choose "masculine" careers. Added to this, investigation of medical cases related to eating disorders has found references to strivings for intellectual or academic achievement. In former

times it was difficult for women to achieve recognition, and the desire to appear more masculine may have been intensified.

Eating disorders are common among adolescent women who strive for high achievement. Girls from fee-paying schools are more at risk than those at state schools, and upper-class girls are more likely to desire to be thinner than lower-class ones. A further study of 188 women students showed that those who had "male" aspirations were more at risk of eating disorders, as were women who said they wished they had been born a boy. In short, women who want to have male achievements are more likely to aspire to a male body shape.

Silverstein also tested this theory by correlating the bust-to-waist ratios of models in magazine photographs since the beginning of this century, with the proportion of working women. When the number of women graduates and professionals was growing, there was a thinner body shape.

Silverstein's work suggests that the powerful stereotypes about women's bodies have a large effect. Busty women are assumed to be incompetent, and it

should be no surprise if this makes women who want to be taken seriously in male domains want to look more like men.

This body of research and supporting evidence by other researchers has been ignored by the media. Almost none of the unintelligentsia who dominate our media will have heard of Silverstein. Most have an arts degree and know nothing about social science. They cheerfully swallow the latest wild speculation from the evolutionists. A predominantly Tory press peddles what are, in many cases, modern myths dressed up as science. The evolutionary myths nearly always uphold a right-wing status quo: that women are cut out only for mothering, men are naturally promiscuous, and so on. The ideological function of most evolutionary "science" is the same as that served by the Christian religion in the British Empire: proving that our way is natural and, therefore, best.

Oliver James's 'Britain on the Couch: Why We're Unhappier Compared With 1950 Despite Being Richer' is available in paperback (Arrow, £7.99)



# MEDIA

## The growing pains of Piers

Ever since he arrived at *The Mirror*, a lot of newspaper pundits have been waiting for Piers Morgan to fall flat on his face. But the latest sales figures show that he has turned around the fortunes of his red top. By Paul McCann

Could it be that Piers Morgan, the 33-year-old ex-public schoolboy responsible for the "Achtung! Surrender" headline who arranged for a reporter to buy drugs from the Home Secretary's son, is the man with his finger on the pulse of modern Britain?

The sales figures for his newspaper, *The Mirror*, seem to encourage the idea. Years of decline in the red-top market, accompanied by years of smug carping from the broadsheets, seem to have been turned on their head.

In the latest figures from the Audit Bureau of Circulation, *The Mirror* has proved that rumours of the death of the red-top are exaggerated. Its sales are up 66,000, or 3 per cent, compared with last November. Even better, and more reliable, is the fact that its last six months have been consistently up on the same six months in 1997.

After the doom-laden predictions of just a few months ago, when *The Mirror* was overtaken by the *Daily Mail*, *The Mirror* is back where you expect it to be – the second best-selling newspaper in Britain.

Morgan sits in his office, taking an obvious enjoyment from the good figures; he is even confident enough to admit to some mistakes: "When I first got here from the *News of the World*, my initial instinct was to try to go head to head with *The Sun*, which was a mistake. It misjudged the readership here, and that was a major moment for me personally."

"What I've learnt over the last three years is that *Mirror* readers are very different animals from, perhaps, *Sun* readers and *News of the World* readers. I might have got away with it on *The Sun*, but you can't get away with it on *The Mirror*, and I've learnt some valuable lessons."

Ever since that German-baiting Euro '96 headline, Morgan has been targeted as the unaccountable face of tabloid journalism. He is certainly the highest-profile tabloid editor since his mentor, Kelvin MacKenzie. "Sure, occasionally I get called a complete tosser, but it doesn't bother me. If you are my age and you do my job, you are going to get attention. And I don't exactly run from that – it gets attention for the paper. If the BBC and ITV want to come and interview me, it saves me thousands of pounds in advertising. If you are not the market leader, you have to use every trick in the book to get attention for your paper, and that has been my strategy."

"If you look at the headlines of the last year, with Jack Straw's son, the Saudi nurse, Prince Harry, the interview with Trevor Rees-Jones, we have constantly been leading the agenda. And getting *The Mirror* front page on to television helps sell copies of the paper."

The other time Morgan and *The Mirror* got coverage this year was



Piers Morgan: 'Occasionally I get called a complete tosser, but it doesn't bother me. If you are my age and do my job, you are going to get attention' Peter Macdiarmid

not of the kind even he can welcome. In September, the *Mirror* Group chief executive David Montgomery issued a public rebuke to Morgan at the Labour Party conference. In front of Tony Blair, Montgomery criticised Morgan for being negative about the Prime Minister's conference speech. "There was a misunderstanding," says Morgan. "But now all is happiness. And the good performance of the paper has helped – as it usually does between a chief executive and his editor."

Morgan believes that there are two separate strands to the turnaround in *The Mirror*'s sales. They might be termed the money factor and the Kelvin factor.

The first he attributes to the oft-criticised *Mirror* Group management. "They decided two years ago that they had to invest in the paper. A budget of £16m was found, to hire more journalists, to produce more sections, more magazines. On Sat-

urday we had a 136-page paper with all sorts of people and lifestyles covered. We have Internet supplements – every day of the week we are giving people a reason to buy."

Much of the money went on columnists. There are 22 new ones working for the paper who were not there two-and-a-half years ago, including Brian Reade and Tony Parsons. In total, there are 40 more journalists on the paper than when Morgan became editor and he wants to emphasise how hard his staff has worked to turn the paper around: "The *Mirror* has been getting a kicking from *The Sun* for 30 years and I think over the last 18 months we've given them a kicking. There is a feeling of real confidence here."

The Kelvin factor relates to the difference made when the former *Sun* editor gave up on Live TV to become deputy chief executive of *Mirror* Group, with responsibility for all

the titles, and especially the most important one.

"Kelvin's arrival was the catalyst to take the paper on to the next sphere. He is in my view far and away the greatest tabloid editor that there has been, and totally in tune with how the readership has changed. Everyone thought he would take *The Mirror* downmarket, and of course we went the other way – although it's almost incongruous to say we've gone upmarket, because that indicates a class distinction. I don't make any class distinction; if people ask, 'where do you want to get readers from', I'll say 'anywhere'. I'll have a *Times* reader. I'll have a *Daily Star* reader. We are seeing a change to the way people aspire to things. The reader is more demanding now than they have ever been."

"It would be wrong to say that as soon as Kelvin left, something went out of the paper. I had produced

the paper that he wanted – I edited, he managed."

Morgan believes that the other factor in *The Mirror*'s revival is that *The Sun* has lost its way. "It's not because they don't produce good papers – they do – and it's not because David Yelland is not a bright guy – he is. I think their problem is that they don't really know what they stand for any more."

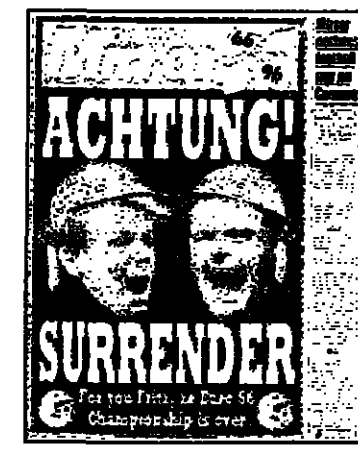
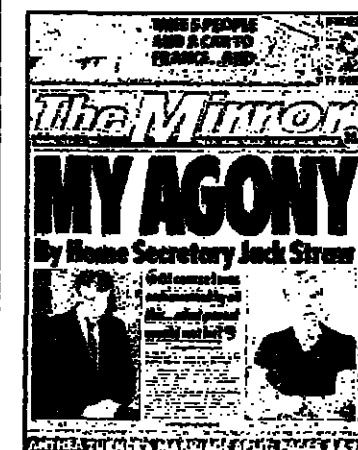
"They've been backing losing tickets and doing U-turns all over the place. In the last year alone, there's been a big U-turn on Tony Blair, a U-turn on the Millennium Dome and another U-turn on gays."

"The *Sun* when it was at its most rampaging and successful never did U-turns on anything. It didn't have to – it understood exactly what it was about. Indeed, it never had to declare what it was about; it would just be obvious by the treatment in the paper. They've lost their confidence and we've regained ours."

On top of the change in his readers' class ambitions, Morgan believes social attitudes have moved back in *The Mirror*'s direction.

"The two really big events of recent years, Tony Blair's election and Diana's death, have definitely created a culture in this country which is more compassionate and understanding than during the Thatcher years. *The Sun* prospered when there was a selfish, nasty edge to life, and I think because of our core values as a compassionate, Labour-supporting, campaigning paper, we have benefited from the change."

Piers Morgan has rarely seemed lacking in confidence, even when being hammered for his antics by his rivals' sales figures or by commentators. The man who fell into a vat of eubullence as a baby has had the cheek to survive in a job a lot of people claimed he could not do. Now that things are going well, he is likely to become irrepensible.



Four of Morgan's more infamous front pages. "You can get away with 'Achtung! Surrender' on *The Sun*, but not on *The Mirror*. I've learned some valuable lessons."

THE PEOPLE'S editor, Neil Wallis, suffered a sense of humour failure last week after a news item entitled "Hunt on for the Chiswick flasher" appeared on *The People*'s news list. The story appeared on the list after two reporters, one from *The Sun* and one from *The Mirror*, were going to their weekly tennis match in Chiswick. As they passed the home of Mr Wallis, he opened the curtains to his bedroom in his birthday suit, providing a full view of his editorial assets. He recognised the reporters, who recognised him, but is more unhappy with the news desk wit who put him on the editorial list.

MILLIONAIRES WERE made by the purchase of the ad agency Abbott Mead Vickers by the giant American agency Omnicom last week, but AMV had already made many people rich. One person it made £5m better off a few years ago was Matthew Freud, whose PR agency the ad agency bought. Shortly after the deal, presumably to show his gratitude, Freud arrived at a business meeting in a brand-new Aston Martin which carried the licence plate H1 AMV.

IT WAS all go at *The Sun* last week as staff prepared for the annual Christmas bash. It was a big news day, with General Pinochet dominating a list of good stories. More pressing for the picture desk, however, was



### THE WORD ON THE STREET

the constant stream of requests from the deputy editor, Rebekah Wade, for a photograph of children's television characters *Crystal Tips* and *Alastair*. She needed to know what they looked like for her costume. But Ms Wade's bit of bother is nothing compared to that of her boss, David Yelland. He has had to change his home telephone number because of its similarity to that of a local pizza restaurant. At least he thinks those late-night calls from a swearing Australian are orders for pizza.

IT SEEMS that the producers of *Mersey Blues*, the upcoming fly-on-the-wall documentary about Liverpool policemen, had a fame-hungry detective on their side. The film crew spent four years following a team of coppers, which included one

Elmore Davies, a policeman who was sentenced earlier this year on corruption charges. When the crew started, five people at the top of Liverpool police knew there was an investigation going on into Davies. One of these was sent to see his team of detectives with the suggestion that perhaps they had enough on their plate investigating a murder without the bother of a film crew following them around. "Not at all", said one detective, who clearly cannot take a hint. "They're no trouble," and so the film crew stayed with Davies. All the way to court.

THE BEST "top" things lists of the year are always in *The Face*. This year, the magazine provides us with *The Ten Stupidest Things Said on the Jo Wiley Show*. For example, there's Björk on fame: "Before you get famous, you've got hair, right, and it grows a bit. Then it grew a bit. People come up to me now and say: 'You've got a new image!' 'Cause of the hair.'"

THE FACE'S editor, Adam Higginbotham, was one of those approached by *Time Out* in its current search for a new editor. He turned them down, as did Tom Hodgkinson, editor of the innovative and frankly silly magazine for loafers, *The Idler*. So up steps Vicky Mayer, launch editor of *Inside Soap* magazine and former features editor of the *TV Times*.

### ANALYSIS

PAUL MCCANN

## Young readers desert newspapers

ANOTHER MONTH, another set of depressing circulation figures for the national press. Every single daily newspaper, with the exception of one, lost sales in November compared with October.

The only paper to buck the trend was *The Guardian*, which increased sales by an average of just 800 copies a day – and that was largely due to increasing the number of papers they ship overseas (a tactic employed by most newspapers). Every copy sent, rather than sold, to other countries counts against circulation.

The *Independent*'s sale actually increased month on month, but some 4,000 copies came off the paper's bulk order.

Making a year-on-year comparison doesn't make things much healthier. The total daily newspaper market is selling 152,000 copies a day fewer than it did last November. Only three daily papers have increased sales year on year, and one of those, the *Financial Times*, has done all of that overseas.

Particularly hard hit has been *The Times*, which has raised its price to 30p every day of the week. It has lost 53,000 buyers compared to last year. Also down by 53,000 is *The Daily Telegraph*, which last year worked hard on its subscriptions with a voucher giveaway and cross-pro-

motion of the *Sunday Telegraph*.

The *Sun*, too, has had a bad month. It lost 59,000 copies compared with October, when it lost 12,000. David Yelland has been unable to stem the paper's sales decline during his first six months in charge. The paper lost 100,000 readers compared with the same six months last year. The rate of decline has slowed slightly, however, to 2.65 per cent.

In the Sunday market, only the *Independent on Sunday*, which reduced its price for one day, has risen month on month, by 1,500 copies a day – and compared to last November, every Sunday paper's circulation is down. In all, the Sunday market sold a staggering 773,000 fewer papers on Sundays in November than they did last year.

"Newspapers are a long-term declining market," says Laura James, head of press for New PHD, a media buying agency. She believes the long-term consequence of such decline will mean that it becomes impossible for advertisers to hit large numbers of people quickly.

"We have not hit the crisis yet," she says. "But already advertisers are having to find more specialist areas to get coverage of their target audience to go up." This accounts for the growth in the magazine market

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER CIRCULATION			
Daily newspapers	October 1998	November 1998	% change
<i>The Mirror</i>	2,339,001	2,322,684	-0.70
<i>Daily Star</i>	558,402	539,944	-3.31
<i>The Sun</i>	3,718,534	3,658,704	-1.61
<i>The Express</i>	1,118,981	1,097,895	-1.88
<i>Daily Mail</i>	2,387,867	2,310,025	-3.26
<i>Daily Telegraph</i>	1,047,861	1,041,447	-0.61
<i>Guardian</i>	393,856	394,655	+0.20
<i>Independent</i>	223,110	221,229	-0.84
<i>Times</i>	766,999	748,197	-2.45
Sunday newspapers			
<i>News of the World</i>	4,316,825	4,196,149	-2.80
<i>Sunday Mirror</i>	2,052,371	2,015,652	-1.79
<i>Sunday People</i>	1,705,359	1,659,089	-2.71
<i>Mail on Sunday</i>	2,396,598	2,321,976	-3.11
<i>Express on Sunday</i>	1,027,820	1,003,064	-2.41
<i>Independent on Sunday</i>	253,629	255,196	+0.62
<i>Observer</i>	404,422	395,205	-2.28
<i>Sunday Telegraph</i>	823,587	816,604	-0.85
<i>Sunday Times</i>	1,398,044	1,364,276	-2.42

and radio, as advertisers look for other ways to get their message in front of people.

Particularly problematic is the disappearance of the 15-to-24-year-old reader. They are the fastest-disappearing demographic group, and they should be the future market for newspapers.

"They are getting their news from other sources, and the role of

newspapers in their life is changing," says Ms James. "Instead of religiously buying the same newspaper every day for news, we are seeing a generation who decide to buy a newspaper on a Monday for sport, and who will then not buy a newspaper all week until Saturday, when they may very well buy a different newspaper for its magazine section and television listings."



# The barbarous coast

Kent's local papers are whipping up anti-immigrant sentiment – but they're not, of course, racist.  
By Steve Platt

It wasn't clear whether the *Folkestone Herald* was aping *The Sun* or *The Sunday Sport*: "Town centre call-girls in Folkestone claim immigrant women have sunk to an all-time low selling their bodies for the price of a spud," it reported last month, in the midst of the media frenzy over asylum-seekers coming into Britain. "The blouses are coming off as refugee 'potato patch dollies' are winning their own version of the war of the underworlds," the paper punned. "A local prostitute reckons that Slovak 'working women' have a new motto: For cash, read cash. The 29-year-old Folkestone call-girl says she is fed up with immigrants stealing customers with incredibly low prices."

The paper gave it the full treatment – including the po-faced official police statement that "they have had no reports of Slovaks soliciting but would like to hear from anyone who has". Evidently unsure itself whether to treat the story as a joke or a serious news item, the *Herald* hedged its bets by printing a rebuttal from a local refugee organisation explaining why it was extremely unlikely that any of the "family-orientated" Romany refugees in the town would be involved in prostitution.

In an area where anti-refugee feeling is running high, and where some people seem to be prepared to believe almost anything about asylum-seekers, such an "exclusive" ceases to be simply daft and becomes dangerous as well. Here, for instance, are just two of the "33 rea-



Asylum-seekers staying on the south coast of England have been falsely accused of prostitution

Andrew Burtman

sons why we should send them back", listed in a leaflet widely circulated in the Dover and Folkestone area recently: "No medical checks on refugees – with the knowledge of their promiscuity and selling sex for money, who is to answer for the epidemic of venereal diseases that will undoubtedly become rife?" "A local hospital has advised that in the event of any blood contact with these people, medical help is of the utmost importance."

The leaflet also rages against refugees' supposed involvement in crime, their preferential treatment over longstanding residents and the luxurious lifestyle they enjoy at British taxpayers' expense – DSS "crisis loans" of up to £1,000 are said to be spent at the local Argos jewellery counter, where the asylum-seekers can be seen "getting their friends to take photographs to send back to their families and show them their new-found wealth".

The rantings of an extreme anti-

immigrant minority? Certainly. But here is how the *Dover Express*, 15 October, reported the views of one of the leaflet's authors, under the headline "DSS cheats are now into brothels": "A Dover woman wants local people to join her in putting pressure on the Government into doing something about the number of immigrants in town. Sheila Farrell, 63, of Avenue Road, Dover, hopes enough people will show an interest in going to Westminster to lobby Parliament that it will make it worthwhile hiring a coach."

The article then quotes her at length: "Immigrants get so much more benefits than local people... They've taken over loads of houses... The education department is paying for a 52-seat bus to take four immigrant children to school while mums and their youngsters have to walk... One asylum seeker is being housed though he won't £150,000 on the National Lottery... The police are called out up to 15 times a day

because of immigrants shoplifting. And at least three brothels have popped up around Dover..."

In case you thought this coverage of Sheila Farrell's unsubstantiated prejudices was a one-off aberration, it's worth looking at how the *Dover Express* has been treating these issues week in and week out.

"Builder pays a high price to stem the flow," said its headline over another report in October about how a local builder – who intends to stand for the British National Party in next year's local elections – was "refusing work from businesses which accommodate asylum seekers, immigrants and refugees". "We are sitting on a time bomb that must be defused now," announced its editorial that same issue. "Every week we report fresh outpourings of resentment over the tide of immigrants arriving through our port. It is easy to dismiss these as the opinions of an extremist minority. We shouldn't do so, it seems: 'The vast

majority of townsfolk are not racist. But they ARE alarmed by what they believe is an escalating problem."

The vast majority may well not be racist. But a significant minority have been given voice – and legitimacy – for the sort of opinions that defy any other description. This, finally, was the *Dover Express* on 1 October, in an editorial headed "We want to wash down drain", published during the Labour Party conference in Blackpool.

"Illegal immigrants, asylum seekers, bootleggers... and scum of the earth drug smugglers have targeted our beloved coastline," the paper raged. "Kent Police have their backs to the sea and are being pushed closer to the cliff edge. While Labour huddles in the back of a car, we are left with the backdraft of a nation's human sewage and NO CASH to wash it down the drain."

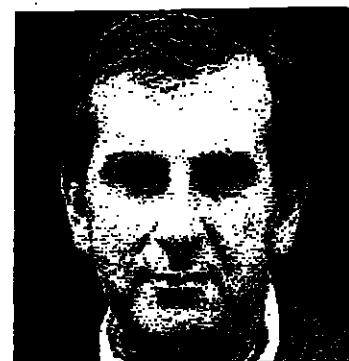
You don't have to be a racist to publish that – but it helps.

## Statesmen and the 'Statesman'

Is there a Labour conspiracy behind the latest ownership bid? By Paul McCann

THE FUTURE ownership of the *New Statesman* is less about the success or failure of a weekly news magazine than the machinations, conspiracy theories and paranoia of Labour ministers. But it makes a good tale.

The story that Robert Harris, the millionaire author of *Fatherland* and a *Sunday Times* columnist, was planning to buy the magazine from the ailing Postmaster General, Geoffrey Robinson, actually emerged in the form of a small paragraph in the *Daily Mail* in July. It was a small bomb which did not detonate – until this weekend.



Robert Harris

Harris – and Blair in return rewards him by not kicking him out of the Cabinet.

In the middle is Mr Harris and Peter Wilby, editor of the *New Statesman*, who says the owner of the magazine never interferes with what he writes anyway. Mr Harris yesterday said that if he wins control of the title he would keep Mr Wilby in place. He says he has thought about buying the *Statesman* since the Eighties: "I see owning it as a service to the left. It would be good fun – I would be publisher and I'd make it more entertaining. I want to see the writing come before the policy, not the other way around." He denies any desire to make it a Blairite fanzine: "The worst thing you could do is make the magazine look like a vehicle for any faction," Mr Harris said.

The whole argument may yet be academic. Mr Harris maintains claims about his wealth are exaggerated and that he needs partners to help him find the £3m it will likely take to buy the magazine. "Now that it is out in the open I hope people come forward," he said.

Despite Mr Harris's claims that better writing is needed to help grow the *New Statesman* and Mr Wilby's efforts to boost its arts coverage, it is difficult to escape the notion that as long as it remains a plaything for Labour Party heavy-hitters it may never prosper.

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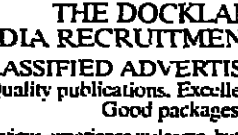
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# NEW FILMS

## THE BOYS (18)

Director: Rowan Woods  
Starring: David Wenham, Toni Collette, Lynette Curran  
Out of jail after serving a sentence for GBH, oldest boy" Brett Sprague (David Wenham) moves back into his mum's drab suburban home, terrorises his girlfriend (Toni Collette), and turns his younger brothers into petty henchmen.  
Adapted from Gordon Graham's acclaimed stage-play, *The Boys* spotlights the flipside of life Down Under, with a stark social-realist drama circling gracefully around a horrific crime which is hinted at but never actually shown.  
Occasionally, the film's theatrical origins are too readily apparent, but Rowan Woods' stealthy handling and Wenham's menacing lead ensure that the interest seldom dwindles. Potent, predatory stuff.  
West End: Metro, Ritzy Cinema

## THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)

Director: Martin Campbell  
Starring: Antonio Banderas, Anthony Hopkins, Catherine Zeta-Jones  
The Zorro yarn resurrected. Martin "GoldenEye" Campbell's gaudy swashbuckler gallops full-speed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic do-gooder. A bite-sized history lesson on West Coast politics jostles for purchase amid a riot of colourful duels and clattering action setpieces. It's old-fashioned and reliably entertaining. Anthony Hopkins and Catherine Zeta-Jones bring a whiff of the valleys to their father-and-daughter co-star slots.  
West End: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

## THE PARENT TRAP (PG)

Director: Nancy Meckler  
Starring: Lindsay Lohan, Natasha Richardson  
The Parent Trap catches Disney cannibalising its own back catalogue: re-heating its 1961 Hayley Mills heartwarmer into a spry, cross-cultural caper starring Lindsay Lohan as the separated-at-birth twin sisters (one British, one American) determined to get their parents (Natasha Richardson and Dennis Quaid) back together. It's a film of sleek, clean surfaces, bright colours and neat knockabout comedy. But a thick layer of syrup covers every inch.  
West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

## PLAYING GOD (18)

Director: Andy Wilson  
Starring: David Duchovny, Timothy Hutton  
Cracker director Wilson suffers a rude lesson in Hollywood politics with this glossy but garbled thriller about a junkie doctor (David Duchovny) embroiled with a gang of counterfeiters headed by a hammy Tim Hutton.  
Essentially a star vehicle for Duchovny, *Playing God* nonetheless conspires to steer a most ill-disciplined course, swerving from grisly violence (cue jets of arterial blood) to a po-faced character study (Duchovny wants his licence back) to surrealistic comedy (an encounter with a bunch of saintly bikers). Hutton and his cronies indulge in all manner of insipid gangster chat, but they look like a limp and spindly bunch who would be hard pushed fighting their way out of a paper bag. Duchovny and luminous co-star Angelina Jolie look on stupefied.  
West End: Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End

Nathaniel Hulley

# THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

## THE FIVE BEST FILMS

### Out of Sight (15)

This tale of love on opposite sides of the law from director Steven Soderbergh manages to knock spots off every previous Elmore Leonard adaptation, and hustles in George Clooney and Jennifer Lopez, the most romantic pairing of the cinematic year.

### Antz (PG)

Computer-animated comedy voiced by a stellar cast stars Woody Allen as a worker ant who becomes an unlikely opponent of the colony's totalitarian regime. Allen's best work in a while.

### My Name is Joe (15)

All that one would expect from a film by Ken Loach (right) - emotional sympathy, indignation and humour - all driven by Peter Mullan's scary, intense performance as a recovering alcoholic in a bleak vision of Glasgow.



### Ronin (15)

John Frankenheimer's action thriller is buttressed by a fine international cast (Robert De Niro, Jean Reno, Stellan Skarsgard), moody French locations and a clutch of supercharged car chases.

### The Fountainhead (PG: Curzon Soho)

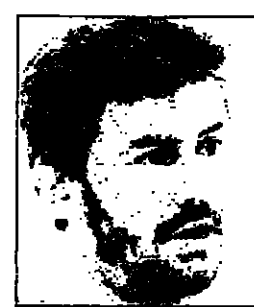
Gary Cooper plays a visionary architect who refuses to buckle under mob pressure in King Vidor's astonishing adaptation of the Ayn Rand novel. Patricia Neal smoulders opposite him.

ANTHONY QUINN

## THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

### Martin Guerre

West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds  
The gifted young Irish director Conall Morrison (right) stages a second reworking of the troubled Boubli/Schoenberg musical. Will it be third time lucky? To 13 Feb



### Love Upon the Throne

Comedy Theatre  
The Charles and Diana story (well, up to the divorce) presented by the National Theatre of Brent. Hilarious and oddly touching. To 31 Jan

### Angela Carter Cinderella

Lyric, Hammersmith  
This feast of inspired silliness and visual magic by Angela Carter has lashings of drag and double entendres, plus the best mix on a West End stage. To 9 Jan

### The Boy Who Fell Into a Book

Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough  
Typically witty and ingenious concept from Alan Ayckbourn - here wearing his children's dramatist hat. To 9 Jan

### The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford  
Anthony Ward's splendid sets and Alan are the stars of the Royal Shakespeare Company's Christmas spectacular. To 27 Feb

PAUL TAYLOR

## THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

### Aubrey Beardsley

Victoria & Albert Museum  
Displaying the short, glittering life of the aesthete and illustrator, with his sinuous and florid line. Drawings, prints and posters. To 10 Jan

### Rosemarie Trockel

Whitechapel Gallery  
Influential German artist: includes a sculpture of a seal called *No one under the sun is more miserable than the man who has a fetish for a lady's shoe and must make do with the whole woman*. To 7 Feb

### Chris Ofili

Whitworth Gallery, Manchester  
This 1998 Turner Prize-winner (right) is an upbeat original, his surfaces dense and decorative, with swirls of dots, eyes, Afros and black icons, as well as incorporating mutant balls of elephant dung. To 24 Jan



### Goya: The Disparates

Maidstone Museum & Art Gallery  
Goya was deaf, ill and in his seventies when he produced his last series of etchings. Mysterious in intention, it is a void world: life is folly, men fly off on wings into darkness. To 23 Jan

### Edward Burne-Jones

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery  
Centenary exhibition gathers together many favourites illustrating Burne-Jones's romantic and medievalist nether world. To 17 Jan

TOM LUBBOCK

# GENERAL RELEASE

## ANTZ (PG)

If nothing else, this computer-animated trifle is surely the most unlikely Woody Allen movie we will ever see. The nerd icon allegedly re-wrote the bulk of his dialogue to provide the voice of worker-ant "Z" who breaks out from his totalitarian rut when he falls in with the regal Princess Bala (Sharon Stone). West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

## BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)

The follow-up to *Babe* tosses the hapless "sheep-pig" into the midst of the city where he becomes the unlikely saviour of a bunch of assorted wails. Knockabout comedy is kept to a minimum in favour of a bleak anatomical fairy tale. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

## BLADE (18)

A techno soundtrack bumps and grinds behind this monotonous arcade-gang thriller about a New York vampire-killer tackling a power-crazed new blood-sucker. Noise and martial arts action mask its tiny pedigree. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

## DANCING AT LUGHNASSA (PG)

Less a dance, more of a tragedy, O'Connor's Ireland-set saga pinpoints the ebb and flow of an eccentric Catholic family in deepest Donegal. What gives it backbone is Meryl Streep's regal performance as the brood's eldest sister, plus the ever-watchable Michael Gambon as the homecoming brother. Kathy Burke, Catherine McCormack and Brid Brennan also feature. West End: Curzon Mayfair, Notting Hill Coronet, Screen on the Hill

## DEAD MAN'S CURVE (15)

All the students at writer-director Dan Rosen's nameless American college are trying to butcher each other, led into temptation by an obscure regulation that awards straight A-grades to the room-mates of suicides. Though not as deliciously nasty as the *Scream* films, *Dead Man's Curve* delivers a respectable quota of drive-in shocks. West End: ABC Piccadilly, Virgin Trocadero

## ELIZABETH (15)

Shekhar Kapur's follow-up to *Bandit Queen* is the story of a woman struggling to gain purchase in a male world. But Kapur largely neglects the opportunities for fun in a film which ultimately tells a tale of independence triumphing over cruelty. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Screen on the Green, Virgin Fulham Road

## THE END OF VIOLENCE (15)

Wim Wenders is back on form with this stylish and intelligent techno-noir about a Nasa plot to "end violence as we know it" through mass surveillance. West End: Ritzy Cinema

## FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (18)

Terry Gilliam's adaptation tilts at Ralph Steadman cartoonery for its tale of a drug-fuelled journalistic assignment. The film soon descends into a carnival of narcotic lunacy and the one stand-out is Johnny Depp - who brings Hunter S Thompson into bald-headed, pigeon-toed life. West End: ABC Baker Street, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Camden Town, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Virgin Haymarket

## IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (U)

Capra's festive bauble is a lot darker and more complex than it is generally given credit for, with James Stewart's labouring everyman shown how dreary his hometown would have been had he never been born, before returning merrily to his Job-like existence. West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema

## LEFT LUGGAGE (PG)

Krabbe's first stab as a director focuses on the ebbs and flows within a Hasidic family in 1970s Holland. Fitful as drama, the film comes to life as a showcase for its high-profile performers plus rising star Laura Fraser. West End: ABC Swiss Cottage, Curzon Minima, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Phoenix Cinema, Rio Cinema, Screen on Baker Street

## LOCK, STOCK & TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)

Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels follows the lead of Quentin Tarantino but the film's defining characteristic is its resilient morality. The picture is peopled by thugs, both amateur and professional. Young Eddy, who comes unstuck in a high stakes card-game, falls into the former, but Hatchet Harry, to whom he owes £500,000, is a dangerous old-school pro. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Pantion Street, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Rio Cinema, Warner Village West End

## MULAN (U)

Disney's animated feature has a pro-active heroine, a strong father/daughter relationship, honour and nobility, and, of course, cross-dressing. It's also one of the most visually innovative movies that Disney has ever made. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

## MY NAME IS JOE (15)

Ken Loach's solid social-realist drama tells the tale of Joe (Peter Mullan), a recovering alcoholic torn between his old life (drugs, crime) and his new romance with Louise Goodall's middle-class health visitor. *My Name is Joe* brilliantly spotlights the groping hopes and thwarted ambitions of Britain caught below the poverty line. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket

## THE NEGOTIATOR (15)

Samuel L. Jackson and Kevin Spacey go head to head in Gray's thrilling drama. The script has a predilection for lunk-headed swearing that sounds uneasy in the mouths of such articulate, rhetorical performers. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

## ON CONNAT LA CHANSON (PG)

Alain Resnais' latest work features a lot of Potter-esque lip-synching to popular French show tunes. The whole thing is less a rounded film, more an uneasy filmic experiment. West End: Chelsea Cinema, Renoir

## OUT OF SIGHT (15)

George Clooney plays the law-breaking hero as a down-and-dirty version of Cary Grant, and turns in the best performance of his career so far. He seems to be a grown-up film star when most of Hollywood's male heart throbs don't look old enough to get served in a pub. West End: Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

## RONIN (15)

John Frankenheimer's 40 years as a feature director lead an air of knackered resignation to his tired espionage thriller about a gang of mercenaries in pursuit of a mysterious silver suitcase. As the leader of the gang, Robert De Niro does his blank-faced, gristle-chewing act. West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

## RUSH HOUR (15)

Rush Hour marries Jackie Chan with an LA backdrop, a jobbing Hollywood director and a wisecracking black comic in Chris Tucker's huckstering LAPD man. It's a hit-and-miss affair. West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

# CINEMA

## WEST END

### ABC BAKER STREET

(0870 9020418) @ Baker Street  
Babe: Pig In The City 12.00pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.25pm  
Loathing In Las Vegas 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.15pm, 10.30pm  
Two Smoking Barrels 8.30pm

### ABC PANTION STREET

(0870 9020404) @ Piccadilly  
Circus The Last Days Of Disco 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.25pm  
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm  
A Perfect Murder 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm  
The Wisdom Of Crocodiles 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

### ABC PICCADILLY

(0171-287 4322 (from 1pm)) @ Piccadilly  
Curzon Minima 8.45pm  
The Turkish Bath 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm  
Victory 1.10pm, 6.10pm

### ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE

(0870 9020402) @ Leicester Square  
Slams Of Beverly Hills 1.05pm, 3.20pm, 7.05pm, 9pm  
Chainaw Massacre 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.35pm, 8.30pm

### ABC SWISS CENTRE

(0870 9020403) @ Leicester Square  
Piccadilly Circus Angel Sharks (Marie Bale Des Anges) 1.30pm, 3.25pm, 5.20pm, 7.15pm, 9.10pm  
The Governors 1.45pm, 3.40pm, 5.35pm, 7.30pm  
Left Luggage 1.30pm, 6.55pm  
Rien Ne Va Plus 4.45pm, 9.05pm  
La Vie Revee Des Anges 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.05pm, 8.25pm

### ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD

(0870 9020414) @ Tottenham Court Road  
Babe: Pig In The City 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 4pm, 6.20pm  
Elizabeth 3.40pm, 8.55pm  
My Name Is Joe 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm  
The Negotiator 8.50pm

### BARBICAN SCREEN

(0171-638 8891) @ Barbican  
Babe: Pig In The City 1.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.15pm  
The Mask Of Zorro 6pm, 8.40pm

### CHELSEA CINEMA

(0171-351 3742) @ Sloane Square  
On Connat La Chanson 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

### CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE

(0171-498 3323) @ Clapham Common  
Babe: Pig In The City 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm  
It's A Wonderful Life 1.30pm, 6.30pm  
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 4pm, 9.15pm  
The Mask Of Zorro 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9pm  
Out Of Sight 9.30pm

### CURZON MAYFAIR

(0171-369 1720) @ Green Park  
Dancing At Lughnassa 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

### CURZON SOHO

(0171-734 2255 (12pm-6pm)) @ Leicester Square  
Squarehead 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm  
The Fountainhead 2.45pm, 9.30pm  
Henry Ford 3.20pm, 9pm  
It's A Wonderful Life 12.45pm, 6.30pm  
The Philadelphia Story 12.30pm, 5pm, 7.15pm

### ELEPHANT & CASTLE CORONET

(0171-703 4968) @ Elephant & Castle  
Babe: Pig In The City 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm  
The Mask Of Zorro 4.30pm, 8.10pm  
Rush Hour 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

### EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE

(0950-888990) @ Leicester Square  
Antz 1.15pm, 3.45pm  
Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas 12.40pm, 3.30pm  
Out Of Sight 12.10pm, 2.55pm

### GATE NOTTING HILL

(0171-727 4043) @ Notting Hill  
Gate It's A Wonderful Life 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.05pm

### METRO

(0171-734 1506) @ Piccadilly Circus  
Leicester Square The Boys 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm  
Buffalo 66 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

### CURZON MINIMA

(0171-369 1723) @ Hyde Park Corner  
Left Luggage 2.50pm, 6.50pm  
La Vie Revee Des Anges 4.40pm, 8.40pm

### NOTTING HILL CORONET

(0171-727 6705) @ Notting Hill  
Gate Dancing At Lughnassa 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

### ODEON CAMDEN TOWN

(0870 050007) @ Camden Town  
Babe: Pig In The City 12.15pm, 2.10pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm  
The Mask Of Zorro 11.50am, 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm  
The Negotiator 8.20pm  
Out Of Sight 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm  
The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm  
Rush Hour 11.55am, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 9.05pm

### ODEON HAYMARKET

(0870 050007) @ Piccadilly  
Circus Elizabeth 2.15pm, 5pm, 7.45pm

### ODEON KENSINGTON

(0870 050007) @ High Street  
Kensington Babe: Pig In The City 12.00pm, 2.25pm, 5.00pm, 7.15pm  
Blade 9.35pm  
The Mask Of Zorro 2.25pm, 5.40pm, 8.55pm  
Out Of Sight 12.20pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 9.20pm  
The Parent Trap 12.00pm, 3pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm  
Rush Hour 1.55pm, 4.30pm, 7.05pm, 9.40pm

### ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE

(0870 050007) @ Leicester Square  
The Mask Of Zorro 11.40pm, 2.30pm, 5.25pm, 8.20pm

### ODEON MARBLE ARCH

(0870 050007) @ Marble Arch  
Babe: Pig In The City 11.55am, 2.10pm, 4.45pm, 6.35pm  
The Mask Of Zorro 11.45pm, 2.50pm, 5.55pm, 9pm  
The Negotiator 8.55pm  
Out Of Sight 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 6.05pm, 8.55pm  
The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3.05pm, 5.55pm, 8.50pm  
Rush Hour 11.50am, 2.15pm, 4.40pm, 7.05pm, 9.30pm

### ODEON MEZZANINE

(0870 050007) @ Leicester Square  
Elizabeth 12.35pm, 3.30pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm  
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm  
Les Miserables 2.35pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm  
Snake Eyes 2pm, 4.10pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm  
There's Something About Mary 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm

### ODEON SWISS COTTAGE

(0870 050007) @ Swiss Cottage  
Antz 1.50pm, 3.50pm, 6pm  
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 4.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
The Mask Of Zorro 12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.20pm, 6.20pm  
Elizabeth 8.15pm  
Left Luggage 8.45pm  
The Mask Of Zorro 1.40pm, 4.55pm, 8pm  
Out Of Sight 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm  
The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3.05pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm  
Rush Hour 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

### ODEON WEST END

(0870 050007) @ Leicester Square  
The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm  
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.15pm, 3.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm

### PEPSI MAX CINEMA

(494 4153) @ Piccadilly Circus  
Everest 12.35pm, 2.40pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.05pm  
T-Rex: Back To The Cretaceous (3-D) 11.30am, 1.35pm, 3.40pm, 5.45pm, 8pm, 10.05pm

### PHOENIX CINEMA

(0181-444 6789) @ East Finchley  
It's A Wonderful Life 4pm, 6.45pm, 9pm  
Left Luggage 1.45pm, 6.45pm, 9pm

### PLAZA

(0950-888990) @ Piccadilly Circus  
Antz 1.15pm, 3.30pm  
Rush Hour 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm  
Saving Private Ryan 3.15pm, 7.15pm  
The Truman Show 6pm, 8.30pm  
Twilight 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

### RENOIR



**PECKHAM**  
PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR:  
Peckham Rye Antz 12noon,  
3.30pm, 5.15pm Babe: Pig In The  
City 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm  
Blade 4.10pm, 6.35pm, 8.15pm  
Elizabeth 7pm The Mask Of  
Zorro 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.45pm  
The Negotiator 8.40pm Out Of Sight  
9.20pm The Parent Trap 1.40pm,  
6.40pm, 9pm Rush Hour 3.05pm,  
5.10pm, 7.20pm, 9.30pm

**PURLEY**  
ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Purley  
Babe: Pig In The City 5.50pm, 8.15pm  
The Parent Trap 2.15pm,  
8.05pm Rush Hour 5.55pm,  
8.35pm

**PURNEY**  
ABC (0870 9020401) BR: Purney  
Bridge: BR: Babe: Pig In The City  
Babe: Pig In The City 1.30pm,  
3.45pm, 6pm The Negotiator  
8.15pm Out Of Sight 2.15pm,  
8.15pm The Parent Trap 2.15pm,  
5.15pm, 8.15pm

**RICHMOND**  
ODEON (08705 050007) BR/ve  
Richmond The Mask Of Zorro  
2.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm The  
Parent Trap 12.30pm, 3.20pm,  
6.10pm, 9pm Rush Hour 1.40pm,  
4pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm

**ODEON STUDIO (08705 050007)**  
BR/ve Richmond Antz 1pm, 3pm,  
5.30pm Babe: Pig In The City  
1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6pm Dancing At  
Lughnassa 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm,  
9.20pm The Negotiator 8.40pm  
Out Of Sight 12.30pm, 3.10pm,  
6pm, 9pm Ronin 8.50pm

**ROMFORD**  
ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Romford  
Babe: Pig In The City 5.50pm, 8.15pm  
The Parent Trap 2.15pm, 5.15pm,  
8.05pm Rush Hour 1.45pm,  
4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

**ODEON LIBERTY 2 (08705 050007)**  
BR: Romford Antz 12.30pm,  
2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm  
Babe: Pig In The City 8.40pm, 9.20pm  
The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3pm,  
5.40pm, 8.20pm Rush Hour  
12.30pm, 1.30pm, 3pm, 4pm, 6pm,  
6.30pm, 8.30pm, 9pm

**SIDCUP**  
ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup  
Babe: Pig In The City 5.45pm, 8.15pm  
Elizabeth 5.20pm, 8.15pm, 8.40pm  
Blade 5.20pm, 8.15pm, 8.40pm

**STAPLES CORNER**  
VIRGIN (0870-907017) BR: Crick-  
wood Antz 2.15pm, 4.30pm,  
6.45pm Babe: Pig In The City  
1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6pm, 8.15pm,  
8.30pm The Mask Of Zorro 3pm,  
6pm, 8pm Out Of Sight 2.15pm,  
8.15pm The Parent Trap 2.15pm,  
5.40pm, 8.20pm Rush Hour  
12.30pm, 1.30pm, 3pm, 4pm, 6pm,  
6.30pm, 8.30pm, 9pm

**STREATHAM**  
ABC (0870-9020415) BR: Streatham  
Hill Antz 2.15pm, 4.30pm,  
6.45pm Babe: Pig In The City  
1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6pm, 8.15pm,  
8.30pm The Mask Of Zorro 3pm,  
6pm, 8pm Out Of Sight 2.15pm,  
8.15pm The Parent Trap 2.15pm,  
5.40pm, 8.20pm Rush Hour  
12.30pm, 1.30pm, 3pm, 4pm, 6pm,  
6.30pm, 8.30pm, 9pm

**ODEON (08705 050007)**  
BR: Streatham Hill/ve Brington/Clapham  
Common Babe: Pig In The City  
1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.20pm,  
12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm  
The Mask Of Zorro 12.20pm,  
3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm The Nego-  
tiator 8.20pm The Parent Trap  
12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm  
Rush Hour 1.30pm, 3.50pm,  
6.10pm, 8.40pm

**STRATFORD**  
NEW STRATFORD PICTURE  
HOUSE (555 3366) BR/ve Stratford  
East Babe: Pig In The City 2pm,  
4.15pm, 6.15pm The Mask Of  
Zorro 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.50pm,  
8.35pm Out Of Sight 8.45pm The  
Parent Trap 12.25pm, 3.10pm,  
5.15pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour  
1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm

**SURREY QUAYS**  
ABC (0980 888990) BR: Surrey  
Quays Antz 3.45pm, 6.10pm Babe:  
Pig In The City 1.35pm, 4.45pm,  
5.30pm, 7pm, 7.45pm, 8.30pm,  
3.10pm, 5.10pm The Mask Of Zorro  
3.10pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm The Nego-  
tiator 8.30pm Out Of Sight 8.45pm,  
6.40pm, 9.30pm The Parent Trap  
3pm, 6pm, 8.50pm Ronin 9.15pm  
Rush Hour 4pm, 4.45pm, 6.20pm,  
7.15pm, 9pm, 9.40pm

**TURKISH LANE**  
CORONET (0181-888 2519)  
BR: Turkish Lane, Babe: Pig In The  
City 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm The  
Mask Of Zorro 4.40pm, 8.10pm,  
Rush Hour 4.10pm, 6.30pm,  
8.45pm

**UXBRIDGE**  
ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Uxbridge  
Bridge: Pig In The City 1.30pm, 4pm,  
6pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release)  
8.30pm The Mask Of Zorro  
1.40pm, 5.10pm, 9.05pm

**WALTHAMSTOW**  
ABC (0870-9020424) BR: Waltham-  
stow Central Babe: Pig In The City  
2.20pm, 5pm The Negotiator 6pm  
The Parent Trap 2pm, 5pm, 8pm  
Rush Hour 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.15pm,  
8.40pm

**WALTON ON THAMES**  
THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-  
252825) BR: Walton on Thames  
Babe: Pig In The City 4.25pm,  
6.30pm The Mask Of Zorro 2.20pm,  
5.25pm, 8.15pm Les Misérables 2pm  
Out Of Sight 8.30pm

**WELL HALL**  
CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR:  
Eldon Babe: Pig In The City 4pm,  
6.20pm, 8.30pm The Parent Trap  
3pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm

**WIMBORNE**  
ODEON (08705 050007) BR/ve  
Wimborne Antz 12.25pm, 2.15pm,  
4.15pm Babe: Pig In The City  
12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.25pm, 6.30pm  
The Mask Of Zorro 1.45pm, 2.30pm,  
5.20pm, 8.15pm Out Of Sight  
8.35pm, 9.30pm The Parent Trap  
1.45pm, 2.35pm, 5.25pm,  
8.15pm, 9.30pm Rush Hour  
2pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm  
Small Soldiers 11.50am

**WOOD GREEN**  
NEW CURZON (0181-347 6664)  
BR: Turpin Lane, Babe: Pig In The  
City 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm,  
9.30pm

**WOODFORD**  
ABC (0181-989 3463) BR: South  
Woodford Babe: Pig In The City  
1.25pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm,  
Two Smoking Barrels 8.30pm  
The Negotiator 1.40pm, 4.40pm,  
8.10pm, 8.10pm

**WOOLWICH**  
CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR:  
Woolwich Arsenal Babe: Pig In  
The City 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm  
Rush Hour 4.10pm, 6.30pm,  
8.45pm

CINEMA  
REPERTORY

**LONDON**  
CINE LUMIERE Queensberry Place  
SW7 0171-838 2144/2146 Bernie  
(NC) 8.15pm

**NFT** South Bank SE1 0171-928  
3232 The X-Files (15) 2.30pm The  
English Patient (15) 7.30pm  
And Old Lace (PG) 6.15pm The  
Incredible Robert Baldick + The  
Signalman: Television (NC) 7.30pm  
Star Pets: A Tribute To Faithful  
Friends (Aunt-Garde Shorts) (NC)  
5pm The Guardian Interview With  
Sally Zant (NC) 9.10pm

**PRINCE CHARLES** Leicester Place  
WC2 0171-437 8181 The Big  
Lebanese (18) 2pm The Spanish  
Prisoner (PG) 5pm Titanic (12)  
7.45pm

**RIVERSIDE STUDIOS** Crisp Road  
W6 0171-420 0100 Through The  
Olive Trees (U) 6.45pm + A Taste  
Of Cherry (PG) 8.50pm

**WATFORD** Arts Centre High Street  
0181-568 1176 The Disap-  
pearance Of Finbar (PG) 4.15pm,  
8.45pm The Turkish Bath (PG)  
6.45pm Les Misérables (12)  
8.45pm

**BRIGHTON**  
CINE WORKS (01273-602503)  
Dancing At Lughnassa (PG) 4.15pm,  
9.30pm It's A Wonderful Life (U)  
6.30pm

**BRISTOL**  
CINE CINEMA (0114-907 4191)  
My Name Is Joe (15) 7pm Fear  
And Loathing In Las Vegas (18)  
9pm

**WATERSHED** (0117-925 3845)  
Heavy Foot (18) 5.30pm, 8.15pm  
La Vie Reve Des Anges (18) 6pm  
Dancing At Lughnassa (PG) 8.25pm

**CAMBRIDGE**  
ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444)  
Dancing At Lughnassa (PG) 1pm,  
7.15pm Left Luggage (PG) 3pm,  
7.15pm There's Something About  
Mary (15) 5pm

**CARDIFF**  
CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-  
399666) Elizabeth (15) 8pm

**DUBLIN**  
IRISH FILM CENTRE (00 353 1-  
619 3475744) The Fountainhead  
(12) 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm On Connell  
La Chanson (PG) 3pm, 8.30pm  
Year Of The Horse (15) 4.20pm,  
8.45pm Scream (18) 6.30pm

**IPSWICH**  
FILM THEATRE 01473-215544  
Funny Games (18) 6pm Drowning  
Jack (15) 6.15pm Character  
(Karaoke) (15) 8.15pm I Want You  
(18) 8.30pm

**NORWICH**  
CINEMA CITY (01603-622047)  
The Last Days Of Disco (15)  
2.30pm, 8.15pm, 8.40pm, 8.10pm  
Two Smoking Barrels (18) 5.45pm

CINEMA  
COUNTRYWIDE

**CAMBRIDGE**  
WARNER VILLAGE (01223-  
460442) 101 Dalmatians (U): Antz  
(PG): Babe: Pig In The City (U):  
Blade (18): The Mask Of Zorro  
1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6pm, 8.15pm,  
8.30pm The Mask Of Zorro 3pm,  
6pm, 8pm Out Of Sight 2.15pm,  
8.15pm The Parent Trap 2.15pm,  
5.40pm, 8.20pm Rush Hour  
12.30pm, 1.30pm, 3pm, 4pm, 6pm,  
6.30pm, 8.30pm, 9pm

**EXETER**  
ODEON (08705-050007): Babe:  
Pig In The City (U): Blade (18):  
Dr Dolittle (PG): Godzilla (PG):  
Lost In Space (PG): The Mask Of  
Zorro (PG): Muriel's Wedding (15):  
The Parent Trap (PG): The Prince  
Of Egypt (U): Rush Hour (15):  
Small Soldiers (PG): Toy Story (PG):  
There's Something About Mary (15)

**GLoucester**  
ODEON (08705-050007): Antz  
(PG): Babe: Pig In The City (U):  
Blade (18): Dr Dolittle (PG):  
Lost In Space (PG): The Mask Of  
Zorro (PG): Muriel's Wedding (15):  
The Parent Trap (PG): The Prince  
Of Egypt (U): Rush Hour (15):  
Small Soldiers (PG): Toy Story (PG):  
There's Something About Mary (15)

**LITON**  
ABC CINEMA (0870-9020422):  
Antz (PG): Babe: Pig In The City  
(U): Out Of Sight (15): The Parent  
Trap (PG): The Prince Of Egypt (U):  
Rush Hour (15): Small Soldiers (PG):  
There's Something About Mary (15)

**LUTON**  
CINEWORL (01582-  
400705): Antz (PG): Babe: Pig In  
The City (U): Blade (18): Doll  
Salute (NC): Dr Dolittle (PG):  
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary  
Release) (18): Ghauri  
Bharwal (NC): Jhoolie Bole Kauri  
Bate (NC): Kudrat (NC): Lock,  
Stock + Two Smoking Barrels (18):  
The Mask Of Zorro (PG): Mulan (U):  
The Negotiator (15): Out Of Sight  
(15): The Parent Trap (PG): The  
Prince Of Egypt (U): Rush Hour  
(15): The Santa Clause (U): Small  
Soldiers (PG): There's Something  
About Mary (15)

**MAIDSTONE**  
ODEON LOCHMEADOW (08705-  
050007): 101 Dalmatians (U):  
Antz (PG): Babe: Pig In The City  
(U): Blade (18): Ever After (PG):  
Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas  
(18): Home Alone 3 (PG):  
The Mask Of Zorro (PG): Mulan (U):  
The Negotiator (15): Out Of Sight  
(15): The Parent Trap (PG): The  
Prince Of Egypt (U): Rush Hour  
(15): Small Soldiers (PG)

**WIMBORNE**  
ODEON (08705 050007) BR/ve  
Wimborne Antz 12.25pm, 2.15pm,  
4.15pm Babe: Pig In The City  
12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.25pm, 6.30pm  
The Mask Of Zorro 1.45pm, 2.30pm,  
5.20pm, 8.15pm Out Of Sight  
8.35pm, 9.30pm The Parent Trap  
1.45pm, 2.35pm, 5.25pm,  
8.15pm, 9.30pm Rush Hour  
2pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm  
Small Soldiers 11.50am

**WOOD GREEN**  
NEW CURZON (0181-347 6664)  
BR: Turpin Lane, Babe: Pig In The  
City 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm,  
9.30pm

THEATRE  
WEST END

Ticket availability details are for to-  
day times and prices for the week;  
running times include intervals.  
— Seats at all prices — Seats at  
some prices — Returns on  
some prices — [1]: Sun, [3]: Tue, [4]:  
Wed, [5]: Thur, [6]: Fri, [7]: Sat

**B22 AND ABOUT THE BOY**  
Three friends and their respective  
problems are put under the  
microscope in Ed Hume's new drama.  
Preceded by a new short, Royal  
Court Upstairs (at The Amba-  
sadors) West Street, WC2 (0171-  
565 5000) Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat  
7.15pm, 10p-10.10, double bill  
(7.15pm & 9pm performances on  
same night) £7.50-£15.

**ALARMS & EXCURSIONS**  
Michael Frayn's new comedy about  
a dinner party which is interrupted  
by mysterious messages stars  
Felicity Kendal and Josie Lawrence.  
Gielgud Shaftesbury Avenue, W1  
(0171-494 5065) Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat  
7.15pm, [5][7] 3pm, £19.50-  
£27.50, [10] 13mins.

**AMADEUS** David Suchet stars  
as Salieri in Peter Shaffer's  
acclaimed drama based on the life  
of Mozart. Old Vic The Ctr, SE1  
928 7616/cx 420 0000 BR/ve Water-  
loo, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7]  
3pm, £7.50-£30, 180 mins.

**ANNIE** Rags to riches story of  
the optimistic orphan, Victoria  
Palace Theatre, SW1 (0171-834  
1317) BR/ve Waterloo, Tue-Sat  
7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, [11] 4pm,  
£7.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

**ART** Larry Lamb, Jack Dee, Tim  
Healy in Yasmina Reza's comedy  
about art and friendship. Wynd-  
ham's Charing Cross Road, WC2  
(0171-669 7366/cx 0171-867  
[11]) Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 7.30pm,  
[7][11] 3pm, £9.50-£27.50, 90 mins.

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** Lav-  
ish family musical based on Disney's  
cartoon version of the favourite fairy  
tale. Dominion Tottenham Court  
Road, W1 (0171-656 8888) @ Tot  
Ct Rd, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7]  
2.30pm, booking to June 26,  
£18.50-£35, 150 mins.

**THE BEST OF TIMES** Revue-  
style show featuring the songs of Jer-  
emy Herman. Watlington Street, WC2  
(0171-836 9987) BR/ve Charing X,  
Mon-Fri 8pm, Sat 8.30pm, [4][7]  
3.30pm, £9.50-£27.50.

**BLOOD BROTHERS** Billy Rus-  
sell's long-running Liverpool mus-  
ical melodrama about twins who are  
separated. Wyndham's Charing Cross  
Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733)  
@ Leicester Sq/Tot Ct Rd, Mon-Sat  
7.45pm, [5] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £11.50-  
£32.50, 165 mins.

**BOOGIE NIGHTS** Shane Richie  
stars in a brand new 1970s musical.  
Savoy Strand, WC2 (0171-836  
8888/cx 0171-836 0479) @ Charing  
X/Embankment, Mon-Fri 8pm,  
Sat 8.30pm, [6] 5.30pm, [7]  
5pm, ends 9 Jan, £11-£28.50, 150  
mins.

**BUDDY** Musical biopic about the  
life of Buddy Holly. Strand Atchway,  
WC2 (0171-930 8800) @ Covent Garden/Charing X,  
Tue-Thu 8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm,  
Sat 8pm & 8.30pm, mats [11] 8pm,  
£10-£27, half price Friday nights,  
160 mins.

**CATS** Lloyd Webber's musical ver-  
sion of T.S. Eliot's cats. London  
Palace Theatre, WC2 (0171-405  
0072/cx 0171-404 0079) @ Covent  
Garden/Holborn, Mon-Sat 7.45pm,  
[3][7] 3pm, £12.50-£35, 165 mins.

**CHICAGO** Maria Friedman and  
Peter Davison star in this hit Broadway  
musical about two murderous  
women and their nightclubs act. Adel-  
phi Theatre, WC2 (0171-346  
0055) @ Charing X, Mon-Sat 8pm,  
[4][7] 3pm, £16-£36 (inc booking fee),  
130 mins.

**CINDERELLA** Angela Carter's ver-  
sion of this fairytale is staged by the  
acclaimed Improbable Theatre. Lyric  
Hammersmith King Street, W6  
(0181-741 2311) @ Hammersmith,  
Today 1.30pm, ends 9 Jan, £5-£18,  
concs £6.50.

**THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF  
AMERICA (ABRIDGED)** Reduced  
Shakespeare Company's keenly  
paced theatrical history series. Crite-  
rion Piccadilly Circus, W1  
(0171-369 1747) @ Picc Cir, Tue  
8pm, £6-£25, 120 mins.

**DR DOLITTLE** Philip Schofield  
talks to the animals in this new  
stage adaptation featuring Jim Hen-  
son Puppets. London Apollo Ham-  
mersmith Queen Caroline St, W6  
(0171-416 6022) @ Hammersmith,  
Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm,  
£10-£32.50, 150 mins.

**FRAME THE MUSICAL** High-octane  
stage version of the TV series  
charting the highs and lows of a class  
of young showbiz hopefuls. Prince of  
Wales Theatre, W1 (0171-839  
5972) @ Prince of Wales, Mon-Fri  
7.30pm, Sat 8.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat  
4pm & 8pm, ends 16 Jan, £15-£30,  
100 mins.

**FILUMENA** Judi Dench and  
Michael Pennington star in Timber-  
lake Wertenbalter's new translation  
of Eduardo de Filippo's play. Pic-  
cadilly Theatre, W1 (0171-369  
1734) @ Picc Cir, Mon-Fri 7.30pm,  
Sat 8.30pm, ends 27 Jan, £12-£18,  
145 mins.

**FOUR AND DAUGHTERS**  
Richard Wilson directs Christopher  
Shinn's debut work. Preceded by  
a short, Royal Court Upstairs (at The  
Ambassadors) West Street, WC2  
(0171-565 5000) @ Leicester Sq,  
Tue-Fri 9pm, 10p-10.10, double bill  
(7.15pm & 9pm performances on  
same night) £7.50-£15.

**GREAT** Energetic stage version  
of the hit film. Ambassadors, Earlham  
Road, WC2 (0171-494 5080) @  
Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.30pm,  
[4][7] 3pm, £10-£30, 150 mins.

**AN IDEAL HUSBAND** Christopher  
Cazenove and Susannah York  
in Peter Hall's acclaimed production  
based on the play by John Galsworthy.  
Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045)  
@ Picc Cir, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5]  
3pm, [7] 4pm, booking to 27 Feb,  
£8-£29.50, 165 mins.

**AN INSPECTOR CALLS** Stephen  
Daldry's widely-acclaimed produc-  
tion of Agatha Christie's thriller. Gar-  
rick Theatre, WC2 (0171-494  
5085) @ Leicester Sq, Mon-Fri 7.45pm,  
Sat 8.15pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 5pm,  
£10.50-£25, 110 mins.

**INTO THE WOODS** Sondheim  
and Lapine's acclaimed musical  
based on the fairy tale. Donmar Warehouse  
Earlham Road, WC2  
(0171-369 1732) @ Covent Garden,  
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm,  
booking to 13 Feb, £15-£27.50.

**THE INVENTION OF LOVE** Tom  
Stoppard's play about the life of po-  
et A.E. Housman, author of The  
Strawberry Lure. Theatre Royal,  
Haymarket Haymarket, SW1 (0171-  
930 8800) @ Picc Cir, Tue-Sat  
7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £10-  
£32.50.

**JESUS, MY BOY** Tom Conti stars  
in Jesus, My Boy's alternative Chris-  
tmas story. Apollo Shaftesbury Ave-  
nue, W1 (0171-494 5070) @ Picc  
Cir, Tue-Fri 8pm, Sat 5pm & 8pm,  
[1] 3pm & 5pm, £5.50-£18.50.

**LOVE UNDER THE THRONE**  
Tasteful look at the Charles and  
Diana marriage. Comedy Theatre  
West, SW1 (0171-369 1731) @  
Picc Cir, Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4]  
[7] 3pm, ends 31 Jan, £6-£25.

**LES MISÉRABLES** Musical  
dramatisation of Victor Hugo's mas-  
terpiece. Palace Shaftesbury Avenue,  
W1 (0171-434 0909) @ Picc Cir,  
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 2.30pm,  
£7-£35, 195 mins.

**MISS SAIGON** Musical which re-  
tells the Madam Butterfly tragedy to  
Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury  
Lane Covent Street, WC2 (0171-  
494 5060) @ Covent Garden,  
Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 3pm, £5.75-£35,  
165 mins.

**THE MOUSSETRAP** Agatha  
Christie's whodunnit. St. Martin's  
West Street, WC2 (0171-836 1443)  
@ Leicester Sq, Mon-Sat 8pm, [3]  
2.45pm, [7] 3pm, £8-£23, 135 mins.

**THE PHANTOM OF THE  
OPERA** Andrew Lloyd Webber's  
Gothic musical. Her Majesty's The-  
atre, SW1 (0171-494 5400/cx  
0171-344 4444) @ Picc Cir, Mon-Sat  
7.45pm, [4][7] 3pm, £10-£35,  
150 mins.

**RENT** Musical inspired by La Bo-  
hème and set in modern day New  
York. Shaftesbury Theatre, Shaftes-  
bury Avenue, WC2 (0171-494 5070)  
@ Shaftesbury Ave, Mon-Sat 7.30pm,  
[4][7] 3pm, £12.50-£32.50, 160  
mins.

**ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE**  
**OLIVER!** Peter Pan Stephen Ol-  
iver's music accompanies the tale  
of the Boy Who Would Not Grow Up,  
with Michael Caine as the Steer-  
head. In rep. tonight 7.15pm, con-  
tinuing.

**LYTTELTON: Betrayal** Pincher's  
defining work depicts a marriage  
and stars Imogen Stubbs and  
Douglas Hodge. In rep. tonight  
7.30pm, continuing, 90 mins.

**COTTESLOE: Copenhagen** New  
drama from Michael Frayn about the  
discovery of the atom. In rep. tonight  
7.30pm, ends 27 Jan, 145 mins.  
@ Lyttelton, Tue-Sat 7.30pm, Sun  
2.30pm, £12-£19, Days starts from  
10am, South Bank, SE1 (0171-452  
3000), BR/ve Waterloo.

**SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER** Bill  
1970s musical featuring legendary  
songs by the Bee Gees and starring  
Adam Garcia. London Palladium  
Argyll Street, W1 (0171-494 5020)  
@ Tottenham Court Road, Mon-Sat  
8pm, Tue-Sat 8.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm,  
£10-£32.50, 135 mins.

**THE SNOWMAN** Award-  
winning production of Raymond  
Briggs' contemporary classic.  
Sadler's Wells At The Peacock Por-  
tugal Street, WC2 (0171-863 8222)  
@ Holborn, Today 2.30pm &  
7.30pm, ends 30 Jan, £7.50-£32.50.



# TUESDAY RADIO

# INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

## CHESS JON SPEELMAN

THE BUNDESLIGA met last weekend at several venues in Germany. Along with Fort from Hamburg, my club, Solingen, is one of the two giants of the league, with a team which I just squeeze into on the seventh of the eight boards when we're at absolute full strength. We duly defeated Neukölln, who are of medium strength, on Saturday. Dresden were expected to provide stiffer opposition on Sunday. But in the event, they were without both of their top two boards - Alexei Shirov and Zoltan Almasi - and so, as we should, we also beat them - to remain with a perfect score after six matches.

Both Michael Adams and I scored 1/2. But while I had two draws, the first albeit after some suffering, Micky has a more up-and-down or rather down-and-up weekend, getting ground down in an endgame with rooks and opposite-coloured bishops by Sergei Movsesian on Saturday but bouncing back to win with the same material against Victor Bologan on Sunday.

White: Michael Adams  
Black: Victor Bologan  
Bundesliga 1998  
Modern Defence

1 e4 g6 22 Re3 Bxg5  
2 d4 Bg7 23 Bxg5 f6  
3 Nc3 c6 24 Bb6 Kf7  
4 Nf3 d5 25 Re3 Kf8  
5 h3 Nf6 26 Re3 Qxd5  
6 e5 Ne4 27 Qxd5 Rxd5  
7 Nxe4 dxe4 28 Rxe7 Rxe7  
8 Ng5 c5 29 Rxe7 Ra5  
9 d5 Bxe5 30 Rg7+ Kf8  
10 Nxe4 Nd7 31 Rxg6+ Ke7  
11 c3 0-0 32 Rg7+ Ke6  
12 Bb6 Re8 33 Rxb7 Rxa2  
13 Bb5 a6 34 Rb6+ Kf7  
14 Bxd7 Bxd7 35 Bc3 Ra5  
15 0-0 Qc7 36 Kh2 h5?  
16 Rd1 Rd8 37 Bb4 f5  
17 Qf3 Bf5 38 g5 Rb5  
18 Ng5 Bf6 39 g6+ Kg8  
19 Re2! Qd7 40 Rxa6 Rb8  
20 Rxd1 Qd7 41 Kg3 1-0  
21 g4 Bd3

Michael was alerted to the unusual 9 d5 by Mark Hebden's win (reached by a different move order and with the h pawn on h2) against Luke McShane at the Kilkenny Open a fortnight ago. With 13 Bb5 and 14 Bxd7! White caught up in development. The d5 pawn then facilitated a powerful kingside attack though in the long term it could have become weak.

Understandably, Bologan didn't

## CREATIVITY LOKI

MS MACKESY regrets. Serena explained last week that she is relinquishing the reins of the Creativity dog-sleigh, and the job of crying "Mush!" to you creative hustlers out there to get you writing in with your weird and wonderful ideas has passed to me. Loki, the Norse god of mischief-making, seems an appropriate mantle to wear, to stimulate heretical and imaginative thinking. Loki, not "low-key"...

placing the Woolsack with a whoopee cushion. A House of Lords, says Nicholas E. Gough, expecting miracles. Martin Brown agrees: pilgrims could buy weeping effigies of Baroness Thatcher in the gift shop. A House of Piers, whose achievements stick out a mile, says Michael Gifford, complete with a What R.A. Butler Saw peepshow. "MPs are a pretty dull lot,"

With what would readers replace the House of Lords? "Don't! Scrap it entirely. Let the tumblers roll!" says O. Cromwell. Tiller Girls, moonlighting as roof-repairers, would make great leggy slaters. Rod Black suggests, Fairies, sipping Peer-river Water, says O'Leary. Paul Turner would amalgamate the two Houses, making the green one red, turning every commoner into a peer. A radio phone-in with 0891 "yee" and "may" votes. (Ian Campbell-Donaldson). A random selection of citizens, chosen by computer. (F.E. Card). 18-25-year-olds doing two years' National Service. (Pat Gould)

Jack Doherty prefers MPs' partners (to save expenses) but Duncan Bull envisages a crèche for their children. John Donegan has tabled an amendment for their illegitimate children. This would scrap the hereditary principle for good and allow the illegitimate to pass laws, and the House would be full of Alan B'stards.

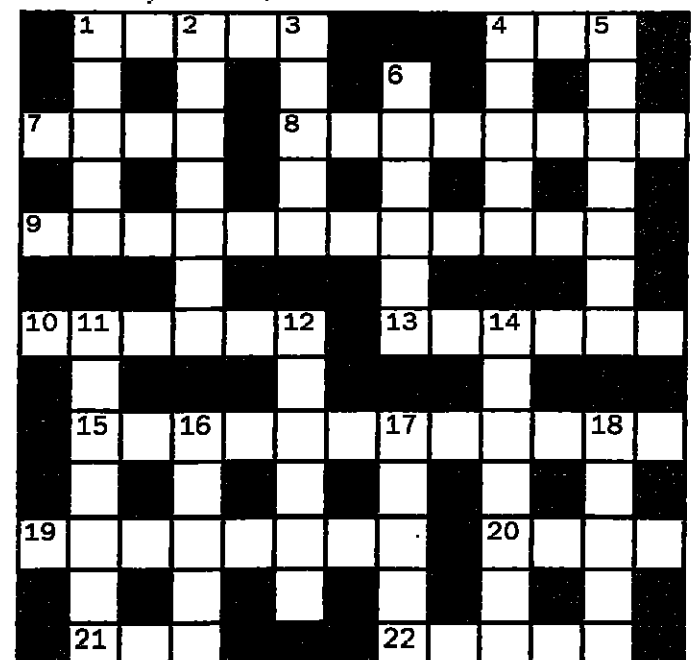
Let's choose their successors/ from sassy cross-dressers, versifies Maggy Higgs. Mary Flavin sees comedians in ermine, considering pill bills and double acts. re-

From alternative Upper Chambers to alternative Christmas messages to the traditional Queen's Speech. Brigitte Bardot did one. Now Channel 4 is asking Stephen Lawrence's parents to do one. To whom would you give air time, and what would they say? Ebenezer Scrooge with a sermon on humbug, perhaps? Or Birmingham City Council on why they want to rename the occasion "Winterval"?

Ideas to: Creativity. The Independent. 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, by 23 December. Copies of Chambers Dictionary of Quotations to the three we like best. Results in two weeks' time. Next week: improbable story lines whereby Tiffany quits EastEnders.

## CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3794 Tuesday 15 December



### ACROSS

- 1 Sheriff's helpers (5)
- 2 Put on (3)
- 3 Monk's room (4)
- 4 Aquatic creatures (3-5)
- 5 Mental capacity (12)
- 6 Person running newspaper (6)
- 7 Range (6)
- 8 Type of boat (5-7)
- 9 Undertaking (8)
- 10 Deserve (4)
- 11 Tibetan ox (3)
- 12 At the present time (5)

### DOWN

- 1 Hymn of praise (5)
- 2 Prominent (7)
- 3 Artist's support (5)
- 4 Condescend (5)
- 5 Type of cotton cloth (7)
- 6 Wrist ornament (6)
- 7 Propriety (7)
- 8 Off (6)
- 9 Hind part (4-3)
- 10 Seven-point ball (5)
- 11 Correct (5)
- 12 Before time (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:  
ACROSS: 1 Hart, 2 Veldt (Heartfelt), 9 Peril, 10 Newby, 11 Everyday, 12 Cede, 13 Pri-mogeniture, 14 Weed, 15 Loan word, 16 Freeman, 17 Opera, 18 Genus, 19 Seed, 20 DOWN: 1 Agree, 2 Tally-ho, 4 Vantage points, 5 Lava, 6 Tableau, 7 Upkeep, 8 Pyre, 14 Iceberg, 15 Ipecac, 16 Endear, 17 Waff, 19 Obese, 20 Amen.

## PICK OF THE DAY

THE AMBIGUOUS relationship France has with its former African colonies is examined in *A Mission to Civilise* (10pm R4). France has been a very generous donor to many African countries in recent years, but its bounty hasn't been universally welcomed. In fact, the French have been accused of helping some of Africa's less pleasant regimes in order to maintain

influence. In the first of two programmes Ofelia Quist-Arcton takes the case of Gabon, a tiny mineral-rich state whose president relies on French troops to keep him in power. After that, there's a profile of the model of the decent Englishman, Sir John Mills (9pm R2), as he approaches his 90th birthday.



ROBERT HANKS

and the romantic adventures of his own life, but our century has been more suspicious of the poetry of empire. Kevin Jackson examines changing interpretations of the epic and its powerful place in Portuguese culture. 10.00 BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. Conductor Nicolaie Moldoveanu. Kodaly: Summer Evening. Panufnik: Symphony No 3 (Sinfonia sacra). 10.45 Night Waves. Turgenev's classic 'A Month in the Country' explored Chekhov in its lyrical exploration of love and ennui. Richard Coles reports on tonight's opening of the RSC of a new version in English by acclaimed Irish playwright Brian Friel. And Bill Buford of the 'New Yorker' delivers his regular letter on cultural life across the Atlantic.

11.30 Jazz Notes. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Elliott Carter. (R) 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night. RADIO 4 (92.4-94.6MHz FM) 6.00 Today. 9.00 NEWS: The Choice. 9.30 Diaries of Today. 9.45 Serial: Dear Bill. 10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour. 11.00 NEWS: Nature: Life on the Brandberg. 11.30 Wonderland Girls. 12.00 NEWS: You and Yours. 12.57 Weather. 1.00 The World at One. 1.30 Full Orchestra. 2.00 NEWS: The Archers. 2.15 Afternoon Play: Gurney.

3.00 NEWS: The Exchange: 0171 580 4444. 3.30 Stafford on Humour. 3.45 With Great Pleasure. 4.00 NEWS: A Good Read. 4.30 Shop Talk. 5.00 PM. 5.57 Weather. 6.00 Six o'Clock News. 6.30 4 at the Store. 7.00 NEWS: The Archers. 7.15 Front Row. Mark Lawson chairs the arts programme. 7.45 Under One Roof. With Martha Kearney and guests. Drama: 'Under One Roof' by Jenny Landreth, based on the original stories by Michele Hanson. As Christmas approaches, shopping, cooking and clubbing reach frantic proportions for Gillian, her daughter Chloe and her mother Bernice. Nativity is in the air even for Molly the dog. With Janet Maw and Edna Dore. Director Marilyn Irmie. Part 2. 8.00 NEWS: A Mission to Civilise? In the first of two programmes, Ofelia Quist-Arcton explores the secretive ties that bind France to her former colonies in Africa. 1. 'Gabon - the Oil Rigged State'. For the past 30 years, Gabon has been ruled by Omar Bongo. Known as 'Africa's Kuwait', this tiny country has huge mineral resources, yet the majority of the population lives in poverty. See Pick of the Day. 8.40 In Touch. Peter White with news for visually impaired people. 9.00 NEWS: Case Notes. From clinical trials to the medicine cabi-

net. Graham Easton investigates some of our most commonly used drugs. 9.30 The Choice. Michael Buerk talks to individuals who have made life-changing choices, taking them through the whole process, from the initial dilemma to living with the consequences. 10.00 The World Tonight. With Justin Webb. 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Spiderweb. By Penelope Lively, read by Stephanie Cole (7/10). 11.00 The Now Show. Steve Punt and Hugh Dennis host the sketch and stand-up show with the regular team of Simon Munnery, Jane Bussmann, David Quinlan, Nick Romano and Dan Freedman. 11.30 Talking Pictures. 12.00 NEWS. 12.30 The Late Book: Aphrodite. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

RADIO 4 LW (198kHz) 4.15 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament. 12.30 - 7.30 Test Match Special. RADIO 5 LIVE (693, 909kHz MW) 6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 Nicky Campbell.

# SATELLITE AND CABLE

## PICK OF THE DAY

HOLLYWOOD SCREENWRITER Casey Robinson once described Gregory Peck (right) as "Solid, kindly, dignified, likable and somewhat self-effacing; he is at his best in roles that match these qualities." One thinks of his Oscar-winning performance in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, or in Hitchcock's *Spellbound* (10pm Sky Cinema) which is showing tonight after Hollywood Hall of Fame (9.30pm), a profile of his career. *Spellbound* has Peck as

the head of a mental institute who is suffering from amnesia. Ingrid Bergman plays the luminous new psychiatrist who helps him to recover his memory. Richard Attenborough's biopic inevitably simplified the life of Mahatma Gandhi. More detail about the life and work of this great peace campaigner is provided by tonight's Biography (9pm History Channel).



JAMES RAMPTON

SKY ONE 7.00 The Simpsons (816). 7.30 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (5806). 8.30 Hollywood Squares (5937). 9.00 Gullif! (5222). 10.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (8434). 11.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (7437). 12.00 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (57825). 12.35 The Special K Collection (53848). 1.00 Days of Our Lives (58134). 1.55 The Special K Collection (776047). 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (863764). 2.55 The Special K Collection (243196). 3.00 Jerry Jones (751318). 3.55 The Special K Collection (874844). 4.00 Gullif! (54375). 5.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (4047). 6.00 Married with Children (5084). 6.30 Dream Team (3660). 7.00 The Simpsons (5778). 7.30 Real TV (5844). 8.00 Speed (1195). 8.30 Speed (5931). 9.00 Surviving the Moment of Impact 3 (53738). 10.00 Police Stop 5 (56825). 11.00 Dream Team (5084). 11.30 Star Trek: DSN (7583). 12.30 Renegade (6443). 1.30 - 2.00 Long Play (460605).

SKY SPORTS 1 7.00 Sports Centre (81065). 7.25 V-Max (30467). 7.45 H2O (30073). 8.35 Sky Sports Centre (55654). 8.30 Racing News (3244). 9.00 Aerobics (23196). 9.30 Football Review (6699). 10.00 Table Tennis (6694). 11.30 V-Max (7150). 12.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (3669). 12.30 Ford Football (2143). 2.30 Spanish Football (8405). 4.30 Fastax (5047). 5.00 World Wrestling (6685). 6.00 Sports Centre (5912). 6.30 Scottish Football (9202)

7.30 Fastax (5778). 8.00 World Wrestling Federation: In Your House (500066). 11.15 Sports Centre (52488). 11.30 Footballers' Football Show (5641). 12.30 Inside Football (98210). 1.30 Fastax (75055). 2.00 Sports Centre (124622). 2.45 Close. SKY SPORTS 2 7.30 Sports Centre (588468). 7.45 Racing News (84533). 8.45 World Wrestling (525573). 8.45 Sports Centre (579250). 9.00 Fish TV (243916). 9.30 Fish TV (350122). 10.00 V-Max (475488). 10.30 World Wrestling Federation: UK Gold (705009). 11.00 Showjumping (475018). 11.30 World Match (573468). 12.00 Sports Unlimited (533683). 7.00 Cricket Australia vs England (102641). 10.00 Showjumping (494950). 11.00 Fastax (845253). 11.30 Sports Unlimited (505738). 12.30 Showjumping - Spruce Meadows Horse & Country (525573). 1.00 FA Cup Special (143332). 3.00 Sky Sports Centre (3367605). 3.55 Close.

SKY SPORTS 3 12.00 World Wrestling Federation Live: The Main Event (481058). 1.00 Fish TV - Tony Dean Outdoors (437019). 1.30 Fish TV Outdoors (437019). 2.00 Motor Racing (783539). 2.30 Darts: Dennis Spaulding vs. Hercey (783539). 3.00 Pool (525554). 3.30 Fish TV (350122). 4.00 Fish TV Fishing Tales (573515). 4.30 FA Cup Special (794715). 5.00 Superbowl All vs Norton (544080). 5.00 Olympic Sports Olympic Destinies (575222). 11.30 Close.

EUROSPORT 7.30 Swimming (58550). 8.00 Bathing (4221). 9.00 Bathing (3514). 11.00 Football (7573). 12.30 Marathon (5825). 1.30 Ski Jumping (5222). 3.00 Bathing (33824). 4.30 Football: Eurogoals (58316). 6.00 Supercross (72950). 7.00 Strongest Man (5252). 8.00 Boxing (20888). 10.00 Football European Championship Legends (4653). 11.00 Rally (7863). 12.00 Car on Ice (4253). 12.30 Close.

UK GOLD 7.00 Crossroads (776173). 7.30 Neighbours (457757). 7.55 EastEnders (404134). 8.30 The Bill (520554). 9.00 The Bill (520554). 9.30 The House of Eliot (530028). 10.30 Angels (523038). 11.00 Dallas (3544028). 11.55 Neighbours (530597). 12.25 EastEnders (247028). 1.00 Jan Fennell (758323). 2.00 Dallas (57457). 2.55 The Bill (218316). 3.25 The Bill (525316). 3.55 EastEnders (535414). 4.30 Angels (404292). 5.00 All Creatures Great and Small (249028). 6.00 Due South (750347). 7.00 The Comedy Alternative: May to December (250747). 7.40 The Comedy Alternative: I Am a Hat Hat. Mum (772739). 8.30 The Comedy Alternative: Dad's Army (750222). 9.00 Red Dwarf IV (59446). 9.40 This Life (517405). 10.30 NYPD Blue (734370). 11.30 The Bill (578980). 12.00 The Bill (702245). 12.30 Spender (734459). 1.30 Backup (58169). 2.25 Live at Jingles (442022). 2.55-7.0 Shopping (481087).

LIVING 6.00 Tiny Living (629047). 9.00 The Roseanne Show (442573). 9.30 The Jerry Springer Show (527776). 10.40 Michael Cole (347834). 11.00 Brookside (305486). 12.00 Special Babies (348467). 12.30 Rescue 911 (494628). 1.00 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (74731). 1.30 Ready, Steady, Cook! (7573). 2.05 Relativity (4254738). 2.55 Living It Up (498595). 3.55 The Jerry Springer Show (583405). 4.45 Tempest (757391). 5.35 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (824370). 6.30 The Jerry Springer Show (590467). 7.00 Rescue 911 (768854). 7.30 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (525737). 8.00 Al McBeal (500780). 9.00 Films: Lightning in a Bottle (594). 9.07/9.57 The Spy Show (724080). 12.00 Close.

TNT 9.00 Never So Few (1959) (5544268). 11.00 Shaft (1971) (540348). 1.00 Demon Seed (1977) (664769). 2.45 Never So Few (1959) (5486897). 5.00 Close.

PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL 7.00 Clueses (166). 7.30 Desmond (438). 8.00 Roseanne (708). 8.30 Just Shoot Me (615). 9.00 Cybil (55009). 9.30 Seinfeld (5764). 10.00 Frasier (55531). 10.30 Cheers (5157). 11.00 Festival of Fun (16554). 11.30 The Larry Sanders Show (58414). 12.00 Late Night with David Letterman (58808). 1.00 Last (5177). 1.30 The Critic (73897). 2.00 Dr Katz (2517). 2.30 Soap (57764). 3.00 Hooperman (48413). 4.00 Nightstand (28264).

GRANADA PLUS 6.00 The Bus (588047). 7.00 On the Buses (80322). 7.30 Farm Street Gang (8009028). 8.00 That's My Boy (870528). 8.30 No, Honestly (870454). 9.00 Classic Coronation Street (726154). 9.30 Emmerdale (801047). 10.00 The Yorkshire (808912). 11.00 Hawaii Five-O (80376). 12.00 Coronation Street (870370). 12.30 Emmerdale (805683). 1.00 How's Your Father? (80252). 1.30 Watching (860434). 2.00 The Yorkshire (868075). 3.00 The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (463047). 4.00 Professionals (49254). 5.00 Hawaii Five-O (293318). 6.00 Emmerdale (83165). 6.30 Coronation St (830215). 7.00 Mission: Impossible (745679). 8.00 Coronation St (413738). 8.30 Sex Les (862239). 10.00 Jokers Wild (871359). 10.30 Hogan's Heroes (872547). 11.00-2.00 As Granada Film & Motors (827573).

TYNE TEES As Yorkshire except: 3.20 North East News Headlines (877047). 5.55 North East Weather (31814). 6.00 North East Tonight (7428). 7.30 The Time of Our Lives (318). 7.30 North East News and Weather (89405). 9.40 As Channel 4 except: 12.00 Judge Joe Brown (454378). 12.30 Sesame Street (4035797). 1.00 Planned Plant: Bagan a Cwc (4250202). 1.30 St Ives (4615844). 1.50 Film: The Day the Earth Stood Still (1951). 2.00 Red Hot LIPS (114038). 3.00 Planned Plant (800854). 5.30 Countdown (11494370). 6.00 News (8085134). 6.30 Hero (8072858). 7.00 Paddy's Pub (3448863). 7.25 Corbyn Spot (5816708). 8.00 Dolly Doodle (8005738). 8.30 Newydd (8017573). 10.00 Brookside (5882028). 10.35 Adult Risky (8928028). 11.00 The Real Holiday Show (6926005). 11.50 Film: Canadian Bacon (1107283). 1.35 Close.

BBC1 IN IRELAND As BBC1 LONDON & SE except: 6.30 Newsline (830 738). BBC1 SCOTLAND As BBC1 LONDON & SE except: 12.25 Dotman (382923). 12.40 Mirean Mesagiche (7303747). 6.00 News (486). 6.30 Reporting Scotland: Weather (738). 10.45 Frontline Scotland (747370). 10.45 Omnibus (51757). 11.35 Crime-watch UK Update (21047). 11.45 Film: The Year of Living Dangerously (52238). 1.40 Jane BNC News 24 (10054239). BBC1 WALES As BBC1 LONDON & SE except: 6.30 Wales Today (738). 9.30 Wales in Week Out (4652). 10.00 Crime-watch UK (385825). 10.45 Omnibus (51841). 11.40 FAW Premier Cup (788370). 12.40 Crime-watch UK Update (762500). 12.40 Film: The Year of Living Dangerously (52238). 2.45 Jane BNC News 24 (8937190).

ANGELA As Carlton except: 12.20 Angela News and Weather (893493). 1.00 Dinosaurs (843579). 1.35 Home and Away (6734047). 2.00 Christmas Home in the Country (527370). 3.20 Angela News (8937047). 5.30 Shortland Street (584534). 6.00 Home and Away (584405). 6.25 Angela News (893493). 11.40 The Turner Live in Amsterdam - Wildest Dreams Tour (867991). 12.45 The Haunted Fishbowl (4835). 1.45 Planet Rock Profiles (45264). 1.45 Film: Eye of the Cat (846535). 3.35 Nationwide Football League Extra (5270852). 4.30 Cybernet (1331887). 4.55 Nightscreen (382239).

CENTRAL As Carlton except: 12.20 Central News and Weather (584381). 1.00 Echo Point (5650). 3.20 Central News and Weather (577047). 5.30 Shortland St (845134). 6.00 Home and Away (584405). 6.25 Central News and Weather (86764). 7.30 Home for Christmas (318). 10.30 Central News and Weather (530425). 11.40 Renegade (58115). 12.35 World of Wonder (875018). 4.35 Jobfinder (213806). 8.20 Asian Eye (212023). HTV WALES As Carlton except: 10.15 This Morning (463488). 12.25 HTV News (5835467). 1.00 Shortland Street (5309130). 1.35 Home and Away (6734047). 2.00 Christmas Home in the Country (527370). 3.20

HTV News (8977047). 5.30 Playing for Time (844334). 6.45 Home and Away (584405). 6.25 Wales Tonight (86764). 7.30 Your Channel - HTV News (583405). 11.40 HTV News 58 (467991). 12.45 The Haunted Fishbowl (4835). 1.45 Planet Rock Profiles (45264). 1.45 Film: Eye of the Cat (846535). 3.35 Football League Extra (5270852). 4.30 Cybernet (1331887). 4.55 Nightscreen (382239). HTV WEST As HTV Wales except: 5.30 Along the Cotswold Way (584534). 6.25 HTV West Tonight (256573). 6.30 The West Tonight (134). 7.30 Beadles' Hot Shots (318). 11.40 Midnight Caller (589550). 12.40 HTV News 58 (353911). MERIDIAN As Carlton except: 10.45 This Morning (463488). 12.25 Meridian News and Weather (583457). 1.00 Shortland Street (845134). 1.35 Home and Away (6734047). 2.00 Christmas Home in the Country (527370). 3.20 Meridian News and Weather (583457). 5.30 Home and Away (6734047). 6.00 Meridian News (583457). 6.30 Meridian News (583457). 7.30 Meridian News (583457). 8.30 Meridian News (583457). 9.30 Meridian News (583457). 10.30 Meridian News (583457). 11.30 Meridian News (583457). 12.30 Meridian News (583457). 1.30 Meridian News (583457). 2.30 Meridian News (583457). 3.30 Meridian News (583457). 4.30 Meridian News (583457). 5.30 Meridian News (583457). 6.30 Meridian News (583457). 7.30 Meridian News (583457). 8.30 Meridian News (583457). 9.30 Meridian News (583457). 10.30 Meridian News (583457). 11.30 Meridian News (583457). 12.30 Meridian News (583457). 1.30 Meridian News (583457). 2.30 Meridian News (583457). 3.30 Meridian News (583457). 4.30 Meridian News (583457). 5.30 Meridian News (583457). 6.30 Meridian News (583457). 7.30 Meridian News (583457). 8.30 Meridian News (583457). 9.30 Meridian News (583457). 10.30 Meridian News (583457). 11.30 Meridian News (583457). 12.30 Meridian News (583457). 1.30 Meridian News (583457). 2.30 Meridian News (583457). 3.30 Meridian News (583457). 4.30 Meridian News (583457). 5.30 Meridian News (583457). 6.30 Meridian News (583457). 7.30 Meridian News (583457). 8.30 Meridian News (583457). 9.30 Meridian News (583457). 10.30 Meridian News (583457). 11.30 Meridian News (583457). 12.30 Meridian News (583457). 1.30 Meridian News (583457). 2.30 Meridian News (583457). 3.30 Meridian News (583457). 4.30 Meridian News (583457). 5.30 Meridian News (583457). 6.30 Meridian News (583457). 7.30 Meridian News (583457). 8.30 Meridian News (583457). 9.30 Meridian News (583457). 10.30 Meridian News (583457). 11.30 Meridian News (583457). 12.30 Meridian News (583457). 1.30 Meridian News (583457). 2.30 Meridian News (583457). 3.30 Meridian News (583457). 4.30 Meridian News (583457). 5.30 Meridian News (583457). 6.30 Meridian News (583457). 7.30 Meridian News (583457). 8.30 Meridian News (583457). 9.30 Meridian News (583457). 10.30 Meridian News (583457). 11.30 Meridian News (583457). 12.30 Meridian News (583457). 1.30 Meridian News (583457). 2.30 Meridian News (583457). 3.30 Meridian News (583457). 4.30 Meridian News (583457). 5.30 Meridian News (583457). 6.30 Meridian News (583457). 7.30 Meridian News (583457). 8.30 Meridian News (583457). 9.30 Meridian News (583457). 10.30 Meridian News (583457). 11.30 Meridian News (583457). 12.30 Meridian News (583457). 1.30 Meridian News (583457). 2.30 Meridian News (583457). 3.30 Meridian News (583457). 4.30 Meridian News (583457). 5.30 Meridian News (583457). 6.30 Meridian News (583457). 7.30 Meridian News (583457). 8.30 Meridian News (583457). 9.30 Meridian News (583457). 10.30 Meridian News (583457). 11.30 Meridian News (583457). 12.30 Meridian News (583457). 1.30 Meridian News (583457). 2.30 Meridian News (583457). 3.30 Meridian News (583457). 4.30 Meridian News (583457). 5.30 Meridian News (583457). 6.30 Meridian News (583457). 7.30 Meridian News (583457). 8.30 Meridian News (583457). 9.30 Meridian News (583457). 10.30 Meridian News (583457). 11.30 Meridian News (583457). 12.30 Meridian News (583457). 1.30 Meridian News (583457). 2.30 Meridian News (583457). 3.30 Meridian News (583457). 4.30 Meridian News (583457). 5.30 Meridian News (583457). 6.30 Meridian News (583457). 7.30 Meridian News (583457). 8.30 Meridian News (583457). 9.30 Meridian News (583457). 10.30 Meridian News (583457). 11.30 Meridian News (583457). 12.30 Meridian News (583457). 1.30 Meridian News (583457). 2.30 Meridian News (583457). 3.30 Meridian News (583457). 4.30 Meridian News (583457). 5.30 Meridian News (583457). 6.30 Meridian News (583457). 7.30 Meridian News (583457). 8.30 Meridian News (583457). 9.30 Meridian News (583457). 10.30 Meridian News (583457). 11.30 Meridian News (583457). 12.30 Meridian News (583457). 1.30 Meridian News (583457). 2.30 Meridian News (583457). 3.30 Meridian News (583457). 4.30 Meridian News (583457). 5.30 Meridian News (583457). 6.30 Meridian News (583457). 7.30 Meridian News (583457). 8.30 Meridian News (583457). 9.30 Meridian News (583457). 10.



**Chief of quits over \$3.2m scandal**

**Libyans for Locker**

**Clinton's trial**

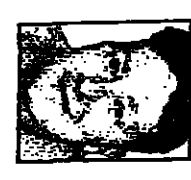
**Allegations of A Nobel Prize-winner**

**Foreign P11**

**Foreign P13**

# TUESDAY TELEVISION

THE TUESDAY REVIEW  
The Independent 15 December 1999



## MATTHEW SWEET

### TELEVISION REVIEW

A MATURED sense of personal tragedy added weight to *Boys Don't Cry* (BBC1), an investigation into the rising number of suicides among young males. Tied to the age of 35, the film's own lives, the brother of the presenter, Juliet Morris, killed himself four years ago, and helped bump up those statistics. Morris unfolded a series of heartrending stories, told through interviews with the parents and friends of those boys left behind. Fathers wept and mothers sobbed, and Sweet tried to keep smiling for the camera and struggling to get out words as he slowly delves into the lives of the boys. He is a gentle, sad, and tender host. He is a gentle, sad, and tender host. He is a gentle, sad, and tender host.

Juliet Morris, who helped bump up those statistics, Morris unfolded a series of heartrending stories, told through interviews with the parents and friends of those boys left behind. Fathers wept and mothers sobbed, and Sweet tried to keep smiling for the camera and struggling to get out words as he slowly delves into the lives of the boys. He is a gentle, sad, and tender host. He is a gentle, sad, and tender host. He is a gentle, sad, and tender host.

## BBC1

## BBC2

## ITV Carlton

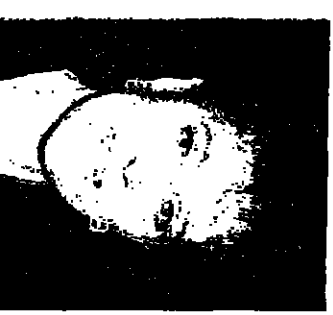
## Channel 4

## Channel 5

- 6.00 Business Breakfast** (628283, 7.00 News (7) (65487), 8.00 Kilo (5) (7) (649028), 8.40 Style Challenge (7) (740080), 10.05 City Hospital (5) (7) (732575), 10.35 News: Regional News: Weather (7) (732575), 11.00 Good Living (5) (675405), 11.25 Carat: Worn: Good Living (5) (675405), 11.55 News: Regional News: Weather (7) (732575), 12.00 Pass the Buck (5) (727202), 12.25 Going for a Song (5) (628808), 12.50 The Weather Show (5) (7) (702831), 1.00 News: Weather (7) (732575), 1.30 Regional News and Weather (653045), 1.40 Neighbour (5) (7) (673355), 2.00 Inside (5) (650860), 2.55 Battersea Dogs Home (5) (7) (630738), 3.25 Playdays (5) (7) (628009).
- 3.45 Children's BBC**: *Baroness* (5) (630738), 3.50 *Children's BBC* (5) (630738), 4.30 *Neighbours* (5) (7) (702831), 4.55 *News: Weather* (7) (732575), 5.00 *News: Weather* (7) (732575), 5.10 *News: Weather* (7) (732575), 5.20 *News: Weather* (7) (732575), 5.30 *News: Weather* (7) (732575), 5.40 *News: Weather* (7) (732575), 5.50 *News: Weather* (7) (732575).
- 6.00 News: Weather** (7) (686).
- 6.30 Regional News** (7) (738).
- 7.00 Holiday**: The south-eastern seaboard of Alaska as seen from a cruise ship, a fabled tour of Devon and Somerset, and self-catering in Jamaica (5) (6844).
- 7.30 Eastenders**: Things come to a head between Simon and Grant, while Jamie cracks under pressure from Beggs (5) (7) (680).
- 8.00 Mystery with Carol Vorderman**: The story of the baby who survived a fall from an eight-story building (5) (7) (7582).
- 8.30 Only Fools and Horses**: Dai persuades Dennis to land him the redundancy money in yet another return from John Sullivan's *Eggs* sitcom (5) (7) (6389).
- 8.00 News: Regional News: Weather** (7) (738).
- 8.30 Crimewatch UK**: Nick Ross and Jill Dando join in the hunt for a sex attacker who has committed at least three offences in the south-east of England (5) (7) (6552).
- 10.15 Crimewatch UK**: The squally weather and angry discussions over the end of the year. See *Art Programme of the Day*, below (5) (7) (6512).
- 11.00 Crimewatch UK Update** (5) (7) (62880).
- 11.30 The Year of Living Dangerously**: *Prisoner* (5) (7) (62880). See *Art Programme of the Day*, below (5) (7) (62880).
- 11.55 Johnnie Walker** (5) (7) (62880).
- 7.00 Children's BBC**: The Little Polar Bear (620075), 7.05 *Teletubbies* (5) (620075), 7.30 *Teletubbies* (5) (620075), 7.55 *Teletubbies* (5) (620075), 8.20 *Teletubbies* (5) (620075), 8.45 *Teletubbies* (5) (620075), 9.10 *Teletubbies* (5) (620075), 9.35 *Teletubbies* (5) (620075), 9.55 *Teletubbies* (5) (620075), 10.20 *Teletubbies* (5) (620075), 10.45 *Teletubbies* (5) (620075), 11.00 *Teletubbies* (5) (620075), 11.25 *Teletubbies* (5) (620075), 11.50 *Teletubbies* (5) (620075), 12.00 *Teletubbies* (5) (620075), 12.25 *Teletubbies* (5) (620075), 12.50 *Teletubbies* (5) (620075), 1.00 *Teletubbies* (5) (620075), 1.25 *Teletubbies* (5) (620075), 1.50 *Teletubbies* (5) (620075), 2.00 *Teletubbies* (5) (620075), 2.25 *Teletubbies* (5) (620075), 2.50 *Teletubbies* (5) (620075), 3.00 *Teletubbies* (5) (620075), 3.25 *Teletubbies* (5) (620075), 3.50 *Teletubbies* (5) (620075), 4.00 *Teletubbies* (5) (620075), 4.25 *Teletubbies* (5) (620075), 4.50 *Teletubbies* (5) (620075), 5.00 *Teletubbies* (5) (620075), 5.25 *Teletubbies* (5) (620075), 5.50 *Teletubbies* (5) (620075).
- 12.30 The O Zone**: Which song will be the Christmas number one? Jamie Theakston reads the runes (5) (7) (68405).
- 7.30 From the Edge**: Blind cook, John Williams, bakes a Christmas cake using talking scales and a microwave oven (5) (7) (682).
- 8.00 University Challenge**: Harris Manchester College, Oxford, faces Manchester University, Alvery (5) (7) (684).
- 8.30 Delt's How to Cook**: The best in the series as Delt Smith demonstrates the perfect, fool-proof risotto - before spicing it up (5) (7) (684).
- 9.00 Back to the Floor**: The director of a renovation company, Picketts, swaps the BMW for a HGV to spend a week shifting heavy furniture (5) (7) (682).
- 9.30 The Modern Times**: Paying for it. Billings list "John School" for the education of her children. See *Documentary of the Day*, below (5) (7) (682).
- 10.20 Wipers**: Chocolate packaging (5) (7) (64319).
- 10.30 Newnight**: Paxman (7) (61640).
- 11.45 Satefield**: Jerry dates a girl who never laughs. You can see her point (5) (7) (65048).
- 11.55 The Larry Sanders Show**: Paula is promoted to producer when she threatens to leave (5) (7) (68442).
- 12.00 Deepchat**: (6887), 12.30 *Open Science*: Quantum Leap (6887), 1.00 *More Than Meets the Eye* (6844), 1.30 *Hard Questions*: Long Answers (6887), 2.00 *Hard Questions*: Long Answers (6887), 2.30 *Hard Questions*: Long Answers (6887), 3.00 *Hard Questions*: Long Answers (6887), 3.30 *Hard Questions*: Long Answers (6887), 4.00 *Hard Questions*: Long Answers (6887), 4.30 *Hard Questions*: Long Answers (6887), 5.00 *Hard Questions*: Long Answers (6887), 5.30 *Hard Questions*: Long Answers (6887), 6.00 *Hard Questions*: Long Answers (6887), 6.30 *Hard Questions*: Long Answers (6887), 7.00 *Hard Questions*: Long Answers (6887), 7.30 *Hard Questions*: Long Answers (6887), 8.00 *Hard Questions*: Long Answers (6887), 8.30 *Hard Questions*: Long Answers (6887), 9.00 *Hard Questions*: Long Answers (6887), 9.30 *Hard Questions*: Long Answers (6887), 10.00 *Hard Questions*: Long Answers (6887), 10.30 *Hard Questions*: Long Answers (6887), 11.00 *Hard Questions*: Long Answers (6887), 11.30 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Questions*: Long Answers (6887), 99.00 *Hard Questions*: Long Answers (6887), 100.00 *Hard Questions*: Long Answers (6887).
- 6.00 News: Weather** (7) (686).
- 6.30 Regional News** (7) (738).
- 7.00 Holiday**: The south-eastern seaboard of Alaska as seen from a cruise ship, a fabled tour of Devon and Somerset, and self-catering in Jamaica (5) (6844).
- 7.30 Eastenders**: Things come to a head between Simon and Grant, while Jamie cracks under pressure from Beggs (5) (7) (680).
- 8.00 Mystery with Carol Vorderman**: The story of the baby who survived a fall from an eight-story building (5) (7) (7582).
- 8.30 Only Fools and Horses**: Dai persuades Dennis to land him the redundancy money in yet another return from John Sullivan's *Eggs* sitcom (5) (7) (6389).
- 8.00 News: Regional News: Weather** (7) (738).
- 8.30 Crimewatch UK**: Nick Ross and Jill Dando join in the hunt for a sex attacker who has committed at least three offences in the south-east of England (5) (7) (6552).
- 10.15 Crimewatch UK**: The squally weather and angry discussions over the end of the year. See *Art Programme of the Day*, below (5) (7) (6512).
- 11.00 Crimewatch UK Update** (5) (7) (62880).
- 11.30 The Year of Living Dangerously**: *Prisoner* (5) (7) (62880). See *Art Programme of the Day*, below (5) (7) (62880).
- 11.55 Johnnie Walker** (5) (7) (62880).
- 6.00 News: Weather** (7) (686).
- 6.30 Regional News** (7) (738).
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- 11.00 Crimewatch UK Update** (5) (7) (62880).
- 11.30 The Year of Living Dangerously**: *Prisoner* (5) (7) (62880). See *Art Programme of the Day*, below (5) (7) (62880).
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- 8.30 Only Fools and Horses**: Dai persuades Dennis to land him the redundancy money in yet another return from John Sullivan's *Eggs* sitcom (5) (7) (6389).
- 8.00 News: Regional News: Weather** (7) (738).
- 8.30 Crimewatch UK**: Nick Ross and Jill Dando join in the hunt for a sex attacker who has committed at least three offences in the south-east of England (5) (7) (6552).
- 10.15 Crimewatch UK**: The squally weather and angry discussions over the end of the year. See *Art Programme of the Day*, below (5) (7) (6512).
- 11.00 Crimewatch UK Update** (5) (7) (62880).
- 11.30 The Year of Living Dangerously**: *Prisoner* (5) (7) (62880). See *Art Programme of the Day*, below (5) (7) (62880).
- 11.55 Johnnie Walker** (5) (7) (62880).

### ARTS PROGRAMME OF THE DAY

**CHANNEL 4: JULIE ANDREWS** (1950m BBC1) The news that Julie Andrews might never sing again was reported with the sort of heavy suppressed anger which has echoed down through her career ever since she ran across the Austrian Alps exhorting us to "Climb Every Mountain". It's that clipped, remorselessly cheerful wholeness ("she makes whole-ness seem like a terminal condition," wrote David Thomson) which makes it hard for us to forgive her. It should be fascinating to see how Andrews sees herself as she looks back on her life and career, with contributions from James Garner, Jack Lemmon and *Sound of Music* director Robert Wise.



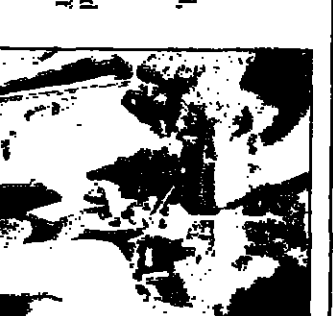
### DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

**MODERN TIMES: PAYING FOR IT** (9.30pm BBC2) Television's association with the oldest profession continues tonight with *Richard Lake (right)* meeting men who prefer the services of a prostitute to a serious relationship. *David Rich*, 10.50pm (5), and *Benny Hendriks* film about a pioneering scheme in Leeds. Instead of targeting the working girls, the West Yorkshire police are focusing on the women clients. *Kath-crawlers* are given the choice between a court appearance or a course at Leeds University which has been dubbed "John school" (ie John being a prostitute's customer). The idea is to show them the "subtleties" of their actions.



### FILM OF THE DAY

**THE YEAR OF LIVING DANGEROUSLY** (12.00pm BBC1) *Robert* (left) and *Peter* (right) teamed up again after the success of *Crucible* for this ambitious, if politically confused, drama set amid the upheaval of Indonesia in 1965. As usual, *Year* is high on atmosphere, pungently revealing the dirt, noise and poverty of a third world country in turmoil. Into this steamy cauldron, *Year* throws Gibson's radio journalist and *Signorey Weaver's* British military attaché the two give off an almost boy-and-girl sexual heat, although it was *Linda Hunt* who won the Best Actress Oscar as a male photographer - Gibson's guide into the heart of darkness.



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